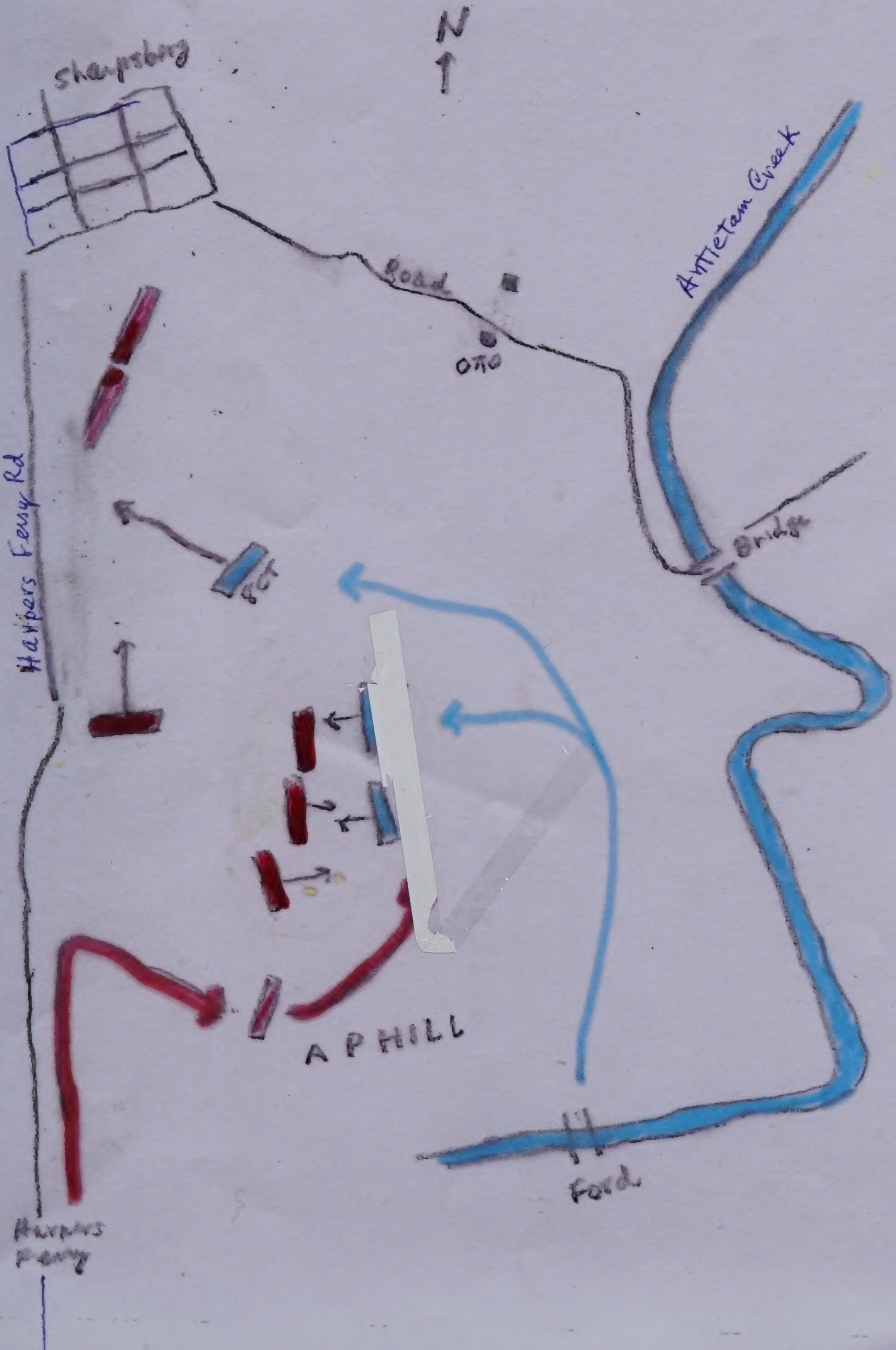
Alonzo Case Book I

Blogs

John Rogers

John Banks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Oliver Cromwell Case

The Story of a Soldier (December 22, 1839 – September 17, 1862

Timeline for the 8th CVI Related to Oliver Case – August 1861 to December 1862

March 28, 2009 by JPRogers

This is a rough timeline for the 8th CVI for its first year. It is taken from several sources as noted. Many of the dates/times for the Battle of Antietam were taken from a timeline on the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers website.

Sequence for 8th CVI August 1861 to December 1862

Date/Time	Event/Remarks
3 Aug 1861	General Order No. 49 is published by the War Department authorizing call up of additional troops from the states. Connecticut is tapped for over 13,000 additional soldiers.
16 Sep 1861	Oliver Cromwell Case of Simsbury enlists in Company B, 8th CVI.
27 Sep 1861	8th CVI organized at Camp Buckingham, Hartford with Colonel Edward Harland of Norwich as Commander. COL Harland had recently returned from a three months' service as a Captain in the 3rd CVI.
1 Oct 1861	The Secretary of War Simon Cameron requests that Connecticut Governor William A. Buckingham send the two Connecticut regiments preparing for service to Camp Hempstead, Long Island, with instructions to report to General Burnside for orders.
1 Oct 1861	Oliver C. Case is transferred to Company A, 8th CVI.
17 Oct 1861	

(Afternoon) The 8th CVI is officially transferred to federal service and departs Hartford bound for the Camp of Instruction on Long Island, NY (Jamaica). Unit strength is listed at 1,016.

1 Nov 1861 8th CVI moved to Annapolis, MD.

13 Dec 1861
8th CVI participates in a Brigade Review with 3 other regiments at Annapolis. [O.C. Case letter]

14 Dec 1861
8th CVI participates in a Division Inspection with 10 other regiments at Annapolis. [O.C. Case letter] Oliver Case receives a package from his brother with food, dishes and other items.

15 Dec 1861
Oliver writes a letter to his brother thanking him for the package. According to the letter, most of the food items are ruined, but Oliver and his friends managed to "feast" on the walnuts and chestnuts. Oliver includes two interesting rumors. First, COL Harland (his regimental commander) is attempting to have the 8th remain at Annapolis throughout the winter. Also, there is a rumor "that the negroes have burnt Charleston." After this rumor, Oliver includes his one word commentary, "Good." Interestingly, toward the end of the letter, his previously beautiful handwriting begins to waver which Case attributes to an unexplained trembling of his hand. [O.C. Case letter]

Early Jan 1862
8th CVI sails for the coast of North Carolina as part of Burnside's North Carolina Expeditionary Force.

7 Feb 1862
8th CVI participates in Burnside's landing at Roanoke Island, NC. In operations against the Confederate Forces, the regiment suffered no KIA or wounded because they were held in reserve during the entire battle.

8 Feb 1862
The regiment is assigned the duty of holding "the landing and bivouac grounds, and prevent the enemy from turning our position by coming through the timber down the beach." The Regimental Surgeon, Surgeon Storrs, is assigned responsibility for preparing receiving areas for the wounded of the brigade. [Report of Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. John G. Parke, dated 9 Feb 1862; Report of Surgeon Church dated 12 Feb 1862]

Feb-Mar 1862
The 8th CVI is garrisoned with the remainder of Burnside's forces on Roanoke Island.

13 March 1862
The regiment is part of Burnside's offensive against Confederate forces at New Bern, NC. Parke's Brigade makes a slow landing at the mouth of Slocum's Creek from small

boats ferried by a tugboat. The brigade moves up the right bank of the Neuse River until they hit the entrenchments of the Confederate forces defending New Bern. The entrenchments were abandoned, but the brigade continued its march until nightfall. General Parke reported that "roads generally were in bad order, and the men marched in many localities through water and mud. In addition, heavy showers fell at intervals during the day and night, and although the men had their overcoats and blankets the bivouac was extremely trying." [Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

14 Mar 1862 (Early morning)
At about 7:00 am, the brigade continues its advance toward New Bern and is quickly engaged by Confederate forces in entrenchments. Colonel Rodman, of the Fourth Rhode Island, discovers an opening in the entrenchments by which the Confederates can be flanked. General Parke orders the brigade to attack the entrenchments and the Confederate are soon flanked and the center of the Confederate line is broken. [Reports of Harland and Parke, 22 Mar 1862]
General Parke reports that all the regiments "were under fire, and the officers seemed proud of the men they were leading and the men showed they had full confidence in their officers." Two soldiers are killed in action and four are wounded.

The attack upon the defenses of Newbern (March 14th) was made at an early hour, and the Eighth assisted in the capture of about five hundred Confederate troops. This was the regiment's first baptism of blood. Its killed were privates Phelps of Company B and Patterson of Company I, with four wounded. The personal bravery of Colonel Harland amid the whistling bullets at Newbern, together with his skill and cool-headedness as a tactician, and his evident desire to shield his men from harm whenever possible, gave them a confidence in him which was never afterward shaken. [Vaill]

The 8th was first in the battle in which they fought bravely…Gen Burnside came along up side of our Regt an[d] order[ed] us to charge on them in which we did in double quick time in which they fired upon us killing 8; wound[ed] several. It was a bold attempt but we won the victory driving the rebels in every direction. [Harrington]

19 Mar 1862
The 8th CVI and the 4th Rhode Island left New Bern by steamer and traveled down the Neuse to Slocum's Creek where they turned upstream to a landing point determined by General Burnside. [Report of Parke, 9 May 1862]

20 Mar 1862
The 8th and the 4th are joined by Brig. Gen. Parke and his staff. The brigade then marched for Carolina City. [Parke]

22 Mar 1862 The brigade reaches Carolina City.

23 Mar 1862
Brig. Gen. Parke demands the surrender of the Confederate garrison at Fort Macon across the Bogue Sound from Carolina City. The demand is refused and the brigade prepares "for besieging the place." Additional material is moved to the area. [Parke]

23-29 Mar 1862
5 companies from the 8th CVI and 4th RI Regiment [unsure as to which companies] are detached from the Brigade at Carolina City and sent to Morehead City (2 companies – assumed to be from the 4th) and to Beaufort (3 companies – assumed to be from the 8th) in order to "seize all the boats and cut off all supplies for the garrison and stop all communication" with Fort Macon. The movement of the troops to Beaufort by boat is constantly under fire from the Confederates at Fort Macon. The force at Beaufort (assumed to be the 8th) established communications with the Union blockading fleet and the Confederate lines of communication with Fort Macon are severed. [Parke]

29 Mar 1862
Brig. Gen. Parke begins the movement of troops and material to effect the siege of Fort Macon. This movement continues until 10 April 1862 as only light draft boats are able to cross the sound. Seven companies of the 8th CVI are included in this force. [Parke]

12 Apr 1862
After some initial probing attacks by Parke's Brigade, a permanent advance guard of five companies is organized and moves on the approaches to Fort Macon. According to Parke's report "a skirmish occurred with the enemy, in which Captain Sheffield [of Company H] and a private of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment were wounded." [Parke]

Between 12 Apr and 24 Apr 1862
During this period, the brigade continues to push toward Fort Macon. The Confederates attempt two counterattacks to break the siege of the forts.

The enemy made two ineffectual attempts at night to dislodge us from our advanced position, in one of which Lieutenant Landers and a private of the Fifth Rhode Island Battalion were slightly wounded, and in the other Major Appleman and a private of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment received severe contusions from a discharge of grape while digging rifle pits within 750 yards of the fort. [Parke]

The siege of Fort Macon terminated during the last week in April by the surrender of the Confederate garrison – forced to such decision by the bombardment of Union batteries, which were supported by the Eighth. During the greater portion of the siege, – Colonel Harland being prostrated by typhoid fever – the regiment was under command of Major Appelman, who received a painful though not dangerous wound from a canister shot. [Vaill]

Late Apr to 1 July 1862
The regiment enjoyed a period of rest and refitting at New Bern. [Vaill]

2 Jul 1862
The 8th CVI is transported by rail to Morehead City, NC where they board the streamer "Admiral" and travel to Newport News, VA. The regiment spent the remaining days of July at Newport News. [Vaill]

1 Aug 1862

The 8th and the 11th CVI travel by transport to Aquia Creek and then by rail to Fredericksburg, VA where they are assigned picket duty. The 8th camped on the grounds of the famous Lacy House across the river from the city. [Vaill]

1 Sep 1862
Union forces to include the 8th CVI are ordered to evacuate Fredericksburg and return to Washington, DC. [Vaill]

3 Sep 1862
The 8th arrives at Washington, DC and makes camp on the grounds of the Capitol. [Vaill]

Sun 7 Sep (early AM)
8th CVI departs Washington, DC. Once on the road, they are delayed until 1000. Roads were crowded with the wagon trains of the AOP and soldiers. The sun was very hot and the march route was covered with a dust cloud that was stifling. Marched 10 miles that day. Halted near "Leeboro" (likely Leesburg in Maryland) [Marsh]

Thu 11 Sep 1000
8th CVI passes through the village of Damascus (Maryland) where they take a rest halt. They move on to Ridgeville near Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Heavy rain began after nightfall and continued all night. [Marsh]

Fri 12 Sep (morning)
8th CVI goes on the march again following along the B&O line for part of the march. Again this day, the wagons and soldiers created a significant impediment to movement along the muddy road. They take a rest halt in New Market before marching into the city of Frederick. The Union soldiers are well received in the city. The regiment camped on the grounds of a hospital where there were both Union and Confederate patients being treated. CPT Marsh recounts being invited into a Frederick home for supper along with CPT Smith of Company E. [Marsh] Charles Buell (Company E) recorded that the soldiers were given wine and they had "hot tea and warm biscuit with butter." [Buell]

Sat 13 Sep (morning)
8th CVI is cheered again by the citizens as they leave Frederick. The regiment deploys skirmishers as they prepared to cross Braddock mountain outside of Frederick. They entered Middletown on the far side of the mountain. Although it appeared that they were close behind the enemy, there was no engagement. [Marsh; Buell]

Sun 14 Sep (early morning)
8th CVI was awaken at daylight by the sounds of battle coming from South Mountain. The regiment ate a breakfast of "bushmeal" before moving out toward the sound of battle in the late morning. [Buell] The regiment moved up the mountain toward the battle and deployed into a line of battle. However, no engagement with the enemy occurred. Silence settled over the area at around 9:00 pm and the 8th slept in their battle positions. [Marsh]

Mon 15 Sep

The regiment wakes early and moves to the top of the mountain where all of Rodman's division forms a line of battle. There will be no more fighting here because the Confederates are gone. Dead Confederate soldiers lay where they fell among the rocks and trees. The regiment marches on and arrives in Keedysville around midnight where they rest. [Buell; Marsh] At some point during the march, Harland's Brigade is joined by the new 16th CVI. The 16th is a green regiment recently raised in Hartford County, Connecticut with almost no drill training. [Marsh] It is assumed that Oliver Case was reunited with his two brothers, Ariel and Alonzo, who are members of the 16th. Harland's Brigade continues the march to Boonsboro.

Tue 16 Sep

The 8th continued to march toward the far side of the Antietam Creek opposite the town of Sharpsburg near the Rohrbach Bridge (aka Lower Bridge and later known as Burnside's Bridge).

1:00 pm

The regiment is placed into a line of battle behind a hill opposite the Rohrbach Bridge about 1:00pm. The wagon trains are shelled and 4 soldiers are killed. Near nightfall, the regiment settles into battle positions for the night on the hills opposite the Rohrbach (Burnside) Bridge. Captain Marsh described the night as "dark and misty." The Union regiments were not allowed to light fires. However, the glow from the fires of the Confederate soldiers across the Antietam could be clearly seen. All the officers and men seem to understand that tomorrow there will be a large battle. [Marsh; Buell]

Wed 17 Sep (early morning around 6:00 am)

The troops of the 8th are awaken and prepared immediately for battle. Just as daylight breaks, the Confederates begin to shell the units of the IX Corps including Rodman's division and Harland's brigade. Colonel Harland moves his brigade down Rohrbach lane to support a Union battery. The Confederates continue lobbing shells that are air burst artillery rounds as well as solid shot. Captain Marsh notes that there was no counterbattery fire from the IX Corps artillery units. Several soldiers of the 8th were killed or wounded during this bombardment including a member of Companies F and A and a Sergeant Marsh (unsure of unit). [Marsh, Buell]

Around 7:00 am

Harland moves his brigade to the left rear into a swale and then faces the brigade to the left.

About 7 o'clock, in accordance with an order received from General Rodman, I moved the brigade into a position to the rear and to the left of the one formerly occupied, facing to the left, the new line of battle forming nearly a right angle with the old one. In this position we remained between one and two hours. Our next movement was a change of front formed on first battalion. This brought the line of battle in a position parallel to the one occupied at first, the right resting about 200 yards in the rear of the first position to the left. [Harland]

Around 7:15 am
A Confederate solid shot from artillery across the creek lands in the 8th CVI's area killing three soldiers and wounding four in Company D. [8th CVI website]

Around 7:30 am
Harland moves the 8th back to the front of his brigade.

Around 8:10 am
Harland begins to extend his lines to the left by moving his brigade minus the 11th CVI detached to serve as skrimmers for the Rohrbach bridge assault.

Around 9:00 am
The 8th CVI is relocated to a ravine further to the left of the line. This provides some protection from the shelling. [Marsh]

Around 10:00 am
The 11th CVI is designated to act as skirmishers in the attempted capture of the Rohrbach Bridge. The mission ends quickly in disaster as the Georgia troops on the far side of the creek have clear shots at soldiers of the 11th. Captain Griswold leads his company of the 11th in an attempt to wade the creek just below the bridge. The captain and many of his men are shot down in the water. The regimental commander, Colonel Kingsbury is mortally wounded during the assault. About the same time or shortly thereafter, two companies of the 8th CVI are sent downstream to find a ford. [Sears' book]

The remaining soldiers and officers of the 8th CVI watch the attempts to take the bridge by New York and Pennsylvania regiments. Captain Marsh calls it "the Grandest sight of my life." [Marsh] It is believed that Marsh was watching the attempted assault by Crook's brigade. Crook was unable to get his brigade beyond the fence along the Rohrbach Bridge road.

Around 11:30 am
Rodman's division was ordered to move left, downstream to cross at the ford supposedly identified the previous day by General McClellan's engineers. Two companies of the 8th CVI are sent to find the ford. The ford identified by the engineers is not Snavely's ford and is being defended by sharpshooters of the 50th Georgia on the high banks of the far side of the creek. It took Rodman's division two hours to locate and move to Snavely's ford only two miles from the Rohrbach Bridge.

I then sent out two companies of skirmishers from the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers to discover, if possible, a ford by which the creek could be crossed. [Harland]

Around 12:30 pm
The remainder of Harland's Brigade is moved to Snavely's Ford.

Around 1:00 pm
The Georgia troops on the far side of the Antietam Creek pulled back from the creek as the other IX Corps units had successfully secured the Rohrbach Bridge almost simultaneously. Rodman's division successfully crosses the Antietam at Snavely's ford

and moves up a ravine toward Sharpsburg. The 8th CVI is temporarily detached to provide protection for a Union battery on the far side of the creek.

General Rodman ordered me to detach one regiment for the support of the battery belonging to the Ninth New York Volunteers, and to send the remaining regiments of the brigade across the creek in rear of the First Brigade, and, when I had placed the regiment in proper position, to join the balance of the brigade. I found the battery on the hill just below the ford. I detached the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, placed it in what I considered the strongest position for the defense of the battery, and then crossed the ford. [Harland]

Around 2:00 pm
The 8th rejoins Harland's Brigade for the movement over the rolling hills toward Sharpsburg. Harland's Brigade is ordered to the far left of Rodman's Division.

While in this position the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers rejoined the brigade, and I moved still more to the right, in the direction of the bridge, and halted in the woods, just under the brow of the hill. From this point I was conducted by an aide of General Rodman, and placed in position in the rear of the First Brigade. [Harland]

Around 4:00 pm
General Rodman orders his division to advance toward Sharpsburg and the Confederate defenders. Fairchild's Brigade begins to advance. Harland orders his brigade to advance, but only the 8th moves forward. For unknown reasons, the 16th CVI and the 4th Rhode Island do not advance.

4:05 pm
Harland notices that the 16th and 4th are not moving. He requests guidance from Rodman as to halting the 8th. Rodman instructs him to let the 8th advance. Rodman assumes the mission of hurrying the other two regiments.
When the order was given by General Rodman to advance, the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, which was on the right of the line, started promptly. The Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers, both of which regiments were in a cornfield, apparently did not hear my order. I therefore sent an aide-de-camp to order them forward. This delay on the left placed the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers considerably in the advance of' the rest of the brigade. I asked General Rodman if I should halt the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and wait for the rest of the brigade to come up. He ordered me to advance the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, and he would hurry up the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers I advanced with the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and commenced firing. [Harland]

4:10 pm
As the Colonel Harland continues to move forward with the 8th, he notices that the Confederates are now on his left flank. General Rodman has turned the 16th CVI to face left and exposed the flank to the Confederates.

4:15 pm

Rodman realizes his mistake, but is shot in the chest as he turns the 16th toward the Confederates. Men from the 8th bear his body to the rear. Colonel Harland has turned his horse to alert the 16th of the danger, but his horse is shot from under him.

The Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers not coming up, I turned to see if they were advancing, and saw some infantry belonging to the enemy advancing upon our left flank. Knowing that if they were not checked it would be impossible to hold this part of the field, without waiting for orders, I put the Spurs to my horse to hasten the arrival of the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. My horse was almost immediately shot under me, which delayed my arrival. I found that the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers had changed their front, by order of General Rodman. The line was formed facing to the left, and was nearly a prolongation of the enemy's lines, except that they faced in opposite directions. I immediately ordered Colonel Beach to change his front, so as to attack the enemy on the right flank. This change was effected, though with some difficulty, owing to the fact that the regiment had been in service but three weeks, and the impossibility of seeing but a small portion of the line at once. [Harland]

4:18 pm
Although Harland continues toward the 16th on foot, he is unable to turn the "green" unit in the confusion of battle and a cornfield. The 16th and the 4th break and run from the field.

4:20 pm
The 8th CVI continues moving forward and to the right toward the crest of the hill held by Confederate infantry under Toombs. Toombs has moved McIntosh's Battery to meet the advancing 8th and fires canister directly into the advancing regiment.

4:25 pm
In spite of the hail of fire from the Confederate guns, the 8th continues to advance overrunning the guns.

4:30 pm
Captain Upham and soldiers of Company K, 8th CVI capture McIntosh's Battery, but only momentarily. The Confederates counterattack with renewed strength from the recently arrived troops of A.P. Hill's division. The 8th loses the guns, but continues to fight.

4:35 pm
Fairchild's Brigade fighting to the right of the 8th is ordered to retire from the field. The 8th continues to fight, but is being flanked by the 7th and 37th North Carolina regiments. All the members of the 8th CVI's Color Guard are killed in the fighting. The regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Appelman is seriously wounded and taken from the field. Major Ward assumes command.

It is believed that at this point in the battle Private Oliver Cromwell Case of Company A, 8th CVI is killed by a bullet that strikes him in the front of the head just above his ear line.

His personal belongings may have been pilfered shortly afterward by the Confederates who retook this ground upon which the 8th fought so bravely. I believe Case's bible was likely taken by a Confederate soldier who later traded it for food or other items to someone living in or around Sharpsburg. I believe that had the bible been on his person when his brothers found his body two days later, they would have kept it for the family. From there it somehow found its way to a yard sale in Germantown, Maryland in 1993. This is only a theory.

4:40 pm
Realizing that his regiment is alone and being flanked, Major Ward orders the 8th to retire. It takes three attempts to get the soldiers of the 8th to abandon the fight. The regiment retires in good order.

5:00 pm
The 8th finds shelter and rest in the swale near the Otto House.

6:00 pm
Colonel Harland is able to gather the remnants of his brigade of the road west of the Rohrbach Bridge.

Friday 19 Sep 1862 (morning)
Captain Wolcott P. Marsh, Company F, 8th CVI, discovers the body of Oliver Case on the battlefield along with fellow soldiers from Company A, Orton Lord, Martin Wadhams and Lucius Wheeler.

Ariel and Alonzo Case of the 16th CVI are given permission to search for the body of their brother Oliver Case of Company A, 8th CVI. Alonzo believes that he was killed in action based on a conversation with an unknown friend of Oliver's from the 8th. The friend saw him fall during the final assault, but Oliver did not respond when his friend called for him.

(afternoon)
The Case brothers find Oliver on the battlefield shot through the head. He is buried near members of the 16th with a note containing identifying information pinned to the inside of his coat.

Dec 1862
Job Case travels to the Antietam battlefield to recover the remains of his son, Oliver Cromwell Case. He finds his son's remains and has him return to Simsbury for burial in the central cemetery in the middle of town.

Hop Meadow

"*Across the Antietam: The Operation at Snavely's Ford*"

From John Rogers Blog

One of the facets of studying the life of Oliver Case that I enjoy most is attempting to recreate in my mind the emotion of the situation that Oliver and his fellow soldiers were dealing with at any given moment on the battlefield. This is particularly true when it comes to the events of September 17, 1862, the final day of young Private Case's life. On a few occasions, I have taken some liberties by projecting emotions into Oliver's mind based on what I've learned about him through his letters and my experience as a soldier. So, I go back periodically to the letters, reports and maps to see if I've missed something or if any new information is available to help me get a better sense of Oliver's experience.

One of the phases of Oliver's experience at the Battle of Antietam that has long held a great interest for me is the crossing operation by Rodman's Division at Snavely's Ford during the early afternoon of September 17, 1862. Recently, I discovered a small detail that caused me to revisit and enhance my view of the operation from Oliver's perspective. This small detail led me to readdress the entire operation and attempt to piece together a clearer picture of events. A recounting of the events leading up to the crossing operation is helpful to appreciate the soldier's state of mind at that point.

In the late morning of September 17, 1862, likely around 11:30, the two brigades of Rodman's Division (Fairchild and Harland) began to move to their left and downstream away from the intense fighting of the morning at Rohrbach's Bridge. In search of a ford which had been previously identified by an engineer from McClellan's staff, the Union troops crossed the Rohrbach Road moving toward a large bend in the Antietam Creek.

Ezra Carmen recounts the events:

...Rodman moved from his position on the high ridge at 10.30 a.m., crossed the Rohrersville road about 1000 yards below the bridge, marched some 500 yards after crossing the road, and halted opposite the great bend in the Antietam, where the course of the stream changes from due south to west. Whiting's five guns were put in position to shell the wooded bluff opposite the ford by which it was proposed to cross, and shelled the road and woods on the opposite side of the creek, driving the enemy from their positions. This fire of Whiting's enfiladed the line of Georgians, at and below the bridge, and the annoyance it caused them is referred to in some of their reports.[1]

The division was accompanied by a Union battery; Company K of the 9th New York Infantry Regiment (Hawkins' Zouaves) also known as Whiting's Battery. The battery was organized in New York City and mustered into service in April of 1861 under the command of Captain James R. Whiting. Interestingly, it was one of only two batteries at Antietam, Union and Confederate, equipped with 12-pounder Dahlgren Boat

Howitzers which, as the name implies, were intended primarily for use by the Navy. Whiting's battery had a total of five guns with three smoothbores and two rifled pieces. The guns were outfitted with unique carriages constructed of wrought iron and highly prized by artillerists for their light weight.

While the work of the gunners seemed to be effective in causing the Georgia infantry to retire from its position on the high bluff across the creek, no soldier of Rodman's Division would be crossing via this ford.

Meanwhile skirmishers had gone down to the creek and Rodman had come to the conclusion that this ford was not one that could be crossed and directed Colonel Harland to make further reconnaissance.[2]

General Rodman's reconnaissance was likely to have been comprehensive since the opposing Confederate troops were driven off the hilltop and back toward the Harper's Ferry Road. However, Oliver Case and most of the other infantry soldiers would have had very limited knowledge about this part of the operation. This is evidenced by the fact that little has been written about it in letters, diaries or even in official reports. It seems certain that Rodman had ordered his commanders to mask their movement to the maximum extent possible by using the hills near the creek as a shield. Only the artillerymen, skirmishers and leaders would have a good view of the creek and the far side.

One of the new nuggets I first stumbled onto came while reviewing (for the 20th time, I think) the battle report of Colonel Edward Harland, 2nd Brigade commander in Rodman's Division and former commanding officer of the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Harland recounts the situation as the brigade approached the ford on the south (east before the bend in the creek) bank of the Antietam Creek:

General-Rodman ordered me to detach one regiment for the support of the battery belonging to the Ninth New York Volunteers, and to send the remaining regiments of the brigade across the creek in rear of the First Brigade, and, when I had placed the regiment in proper position, to join the balance of the brigade. I found the battery on the hill just below the ford. I detached the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers placed it in what I considered the strongest position for the defense placed behind a stone wall, with orders from General Rodman to wait there for orders.[3]

In my previous reviews of this report, I had missed the significant phrase "placed behind a stone wall" referring to the position of the 8th Connecticut on the far bank. In this position, Oliver had an excellent view of the ford and John Snavely's field and farm on the far side. Today, this is private property, but can be viewed from the National Park Service side of the ford where there is no apparent trace of a stone wall. From existing contemporary descriptions, the September woods were thinner than they appear today giving

Sometime before 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the troops of Rodman's division were prepared to cross the Antietam Creek and move toward the sound of battle around Sharpsburg that had rung in their ears for the entire day.

> *... [Rodman's reconnaissance] found a practicable ford, and the column, Fairchild's Brigade in advance, marched down to it. Whiting's Battery, supported by the 8th Connecticut, was put in position on a hill just below the ford to cover the crossing. Much time had been lost and it was nearly 1 o'clock...* [4]

Carman's comment about lost time is noteworthy since some might accuse Isaac Rodman with delaying the movement and crossing thereby causing more deaths in the repeated attempts to take the Rohrbach Bridge. However, the pace of Rodman's movement down the Antietam is easily understood by considering the obstacles he faced. He had received indecisive orders for most of the morning and once he was ordered to shift downstream to the left of the Union line, Rodman without a doubt believed he would be crossing a known ford only a short distance away based on what should have been reliable information from one of General McClellan's engineers who had allegedly conducted a reconnaissance the previous day. When the two brigades arrived at this supposed ford and prepared to cross, Rodman's discovery that the ford was impracticable for crossing infantry soldiers caused the need to resume the movement toward Snavely's Ford. This essentially became a reconnaissance in force, a very time-consuming activity for two brigades of infantry moving in unfamiliar territory.

Whatever the reason for the slow movement, it was now time for the crossing operation to begin. The ford located on the property of farmer John Snavely presented the first practical site for this type of crossing downstream from the Rohrbach Bridge. Moving south and then west (after "the great bend") from bridge, the opposing bank was essentially a high, continuous bluff which had provided the Confederate defenders an excellent command of the creek. This bluff ended at Snavely's Ford and morphed into a plain several hundred yards wide and even with the creek bank following the run for about one-half mile to the Snavely farmhouse. A natural draw bordered by a farm road led away from the ford to the northwest toward the town of Sharpsburg. The Confederate commander responsible for defending the ford and the Rohrbach Bridge recognized the danger of failing to defend this position.

> *The old road, by the upper of the two fords referred to, led over a hill on my right and in my rear, which completely commanded my position and all ingress and egress to and from it below the bridge.*[5]

In the mind of Robert Toombs, Snavely's Ford may have held more tactical significance than the Rohrbach Bridge in the defense of the southern end of the field. A more thorough reconnaissance by Union forces on the day before the battle could have altered the operational plans of McClellan and Burnside and saved the lives of countless Union troops who died attempting to capture the bridge. As it was, the Confederate defense of the bridge collapsed at about the same time Rodman's

soldiers set foot in the cool waters of the Antietam. This situation may have saved Rodman from much stronger resistance by the Confederate defenders

Opposing the crossing at Snavely's was one very thinly manned regiment of Georgia troops extensively bloodied by the Battle of South Mountain only three days before. The 50th Georgia Infantry Regiment had been under the command of General Toombs for only one day before Rodman's Division appeared to their front across the creek. Toombs had a bleak assessment of the regiment that was now barely the size of a company, but he employed them as best he could.

> *…you placed under my command the Fiftieth Georgia (Lieutenant-Colonel Kearse), numbering, I should suppose, scarcely 100 muskets. I ordered this regiment on the right of the Second Georgia, extending it in open order, so as to guard a blind plantation road leading to a ford between the lower ford before referred to and the right of the Second Georgia Volunteers.*[6]

In fact, Lieutenant Colonel Kearse and General Toombs had recognized the strong points overlooking the ford and Snavely's field. Kearse deployed his troops in what amounted to a skirmish line extending from the crest of the high bluff to the right on the ford (as viewed from the far side) to a point on a rise overlooking Snavely's field with a clear view of the crossing site. To the right rear of the 50th Georgia, Kearse received supporting fire from an artillery battery emplaced just prior to the arrival of the Union troops at the ford.

> *During the forenoon the Washington Artillery was engaged with the enemy's heavy Batteries on the opposite side of Antietam Creek…at noon the 4th Company, Eshleman, was moved farther to the right to guard the fords below the Burnside Bridge.*[7]

This was one of the four batteries of the Washington (Louisiana) Artillery and was under the command of Captain Benjamin Franklin Eshleman. The 32-year old Confederate artilleryman was actually born into a Pennsylvania Mennonite family relocating to New Orleans only about ten years before the war. He joined the Washington Artillery in May of 1861 and suffered a wound during the First Battle of Bull Run. Eshleman, surviving the war and reaching the rank of Colonel, returned to New Orleans to become a successful and respected businessman for the next fifty years.[8]

On September 17, 1862, his battery played a key role in opposing the crossing of Snavely's Ford and the subsequent Union attack toward Sharpsburg. With his four cannon (2 – 6 pounder guns and 2 – 12 pounder howitzers), Eshleman could easily range all of the soldiers of Rodman's division as they crossed the river.

> *The fourth, under Eshleman, was not idle during this eventful day, when the battalion was so actively and effectually employed. About noon on the 17th he was directed by General Jones, in front of whose position he was placed, to remove his battery to a*

position to guard the ford below the bridge held by General Toombs. The battery was placed in position between the Blackford House and the ford, and opened fire upon the enemy, who were crossing in force.[9]

The hilltop location of the battery is visible today to Antietam National Battlefield visitors traveling along Branch Avenue toward the intersection with the Harper's Ferry Road. While the position was commanding, there were limitations for the Confederate artillerymen that would be revealed as the afternoon progressed.

With the 8th Connecticut perched on the hill above the ford and taking cover behind a stone fence, Private Oliver Case had a panoramic view of the evolving action as the other regiments from Rodman's Division began to cross the Antietam Creek at around 1 o'clock. Direct fire on the position of the 8th Connecticut was unlikely due to small number of Confederate infantry near the ford and the distance. The soldiers of the 50th Georgia were likely focused on the ford as the Union troops began to set foot in the waters of the Antietam. Fairchild's Brigade was the first to navigate the ford with the 9th New York (Hawkins' Zouves) in the lead. A lieutenant in the 9th New York described the action from the perspective of the first Union regiment to cross the ford:

Then came the crossing of the creek. We marched by the left flank down what appeared to be an old wood-road, and filed to the right at the edge of the stream. I do not remember how deep it was, but it was quite an effort to stem the current. When partly across we received the fire of a detachment which was stationed behind a wall at the head of a ravine which opened up from the water towards our left front. I judge there were about two companies of infantry of them. Their fire was not very heavy, rather scattering, and we did not answer it. One reason was that we would have to stop in the stream while firing, and any of our men who might be wounded would be in great danger of drowning, so we urged the men forward and passed the order not to fire. I had two men hit here.[10]

Lieutenant Graham and his fellow soldiers of the 9th New York hurriedly crossed the ford and immediately began to seek shelter from the musket fire of the 50th Georgia. The high bluff to their right gave them cover but presented a new problem with a relatively small area available to stack in the regiment with the only route of advance being up the steep bluff in front of them. While the commanders prepared their companies to ascend the hill, General Rodman joined the regiment to encourage them with this difficult movement.

We then faced to the left, which brought us by the rear rank into line, and marched, or rather climbed, directly up the bluff; the ground in front of my company was very rough and difficult and also very steep. Rodman appeared here again on foot and went up with the regiment.[11]

The 9th New York was followed across the ford by the other two New York regiments of Fairchild's Brigade, the 103rd and 89th. With Fairchild's men clear of the ford, the

two remaining regiments of Edward Harland's Brigade marched along the wooded road leading up to the ford with the 4th Rhode Island Infantry in the advance.

> *... [the 4th] moved by the left flank to the creek at a ford under fire from the enemy's skirmishers, who were sheltered behind a stone wall. The Fourth, after crossing the ford, filed to the left (the other brigade going to the right, and the rest of Harland's brigade not yet having crossed)...*[12]

Since a relatively small area existed on the right of the ford exit with three regiments traversing it, Harland's Brigade was forced to move into Snavely's open field on the left. This presented to the sparse group of Confederate defenders the opportunity to direct unobstructed musket fire into the ranks of the 4th Rhode Island and the 16th Connecticut, the next regiment crossing the ford. However, the small band of Georgians was no match for the Rhode Island infantry supported by the artillery battery on the far side.

> *Harland followed Fairchild and while the latter was making his difficult way up the bluff, on the right, the 4th Rhode Island crossed the creek under fire of the enemy behind the stone fence, filed to the left on open ground, then one company to the front and one to the left as skirmishers, and advancing drove the enemy from the stone fence and formed behind it, and almost immediately received a musketry fire from the left, which was almost immediately silenced by Whiting's guns across the creek.*[13]

Carman's description of this segment of the action is confirmed by the report of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Curtis, the commanding officer of the Fourth Rhode Island Infantry.

> *...after throwing out Company H as skirmishers to cover the front, and Company K to the left, advanced in line toward the stone wall, the enemy retiring, but shortly after opening a fire of musketry on our left, which was soon silenced by the fire from our battery covering the ford.*[14]

With the first two regiments of Harland's Brigade safely across the Antietam, only the 8th Connecticut remained on the far side of the creek. However, as the soldiers of the 8th left their defensive positions on the hill and the opposing troops of the 50th Georgia faded away from the stone wall north of Snavely's field, a new problem presented itself for Colonel Harland.

> *Shortly after my [Harland] arrival opened an enfilading fire from a section of a battery which had been placed on our left flank. In order to protect the men, I moved the command more to the right behind the crest of a hill, and awaited in that position the orders of General Rodman. While in this position the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers rejoined the brigade, and I moved still more to the right, in the direction of the bridge, and halted in the woods, just under the brow of the hill.*[15]

The highly exposed troops of the 4th Rhode Island and the 16th Connecticut were being rained on by Eshleman's Confederate artillery battery to the northwest of Snavely's field. Harland had no choice but to remove the troops from these positions and seek shelter in the draw leading away from the ford to the right of Snavely's field. Eshleman's battery was positioned on a spur pointing toward the ford to the southeast. Harland realized that moving his troops quickly to the right and up the ravine would shield them from the line of sight of the Confederate artillerymen.

The commanding view from the hill where Eshleman's four guns had been emplaced about one hour earlier offered a good fields of fire on Snavely's field and the first hundred yards of the road leading away from the ford. However, Captain Eshleman's guns were unable to acquire the troops of Rodman's Division as they moved to the north under the cover of the same terrain feature that gave the Confederate gunners such an excellent view. Also, Whiting's New York Battery was able to easily range Eshleman.

Oliver and his fellow Connecticut troopers had benefited by the distraction from the 4th RI and the 16th CT by quickly crossing the ford and moving up to join Harland in the ravine. The thicker stand of trees and the brow of the hill gave Colonel Harland the opportunity to reposition and reorganized his regiments in accordance with instructions from General Rodman prior to commencing the final attack against the Confederate troops now searching for fresh defensive positions closer to the Harper's Ferry Road. The Confederate general charged with the defense of Snavely's Ford tried to put a positive angle in his report after the battle.

The Fiftieth Georgia and the company from General Jenkins' brigade were at the same time ordered to the same position, and were led back by their respective officers. This change of position was made to my entire satisfaction, and with but small loss, in the face of greatly superior numbers.[17]

Of course, Toombs was provided scant resources to stop an overwhelming force attempting to cross in two locations. Considering the size of his force (around 500 at best) versus the opposing Union forces (up to 5,000 or more), the Georgia political general had put up a significant resistance and served the important purpose of delaying Burnside's corps long enough for A.P. Hill's division to arrive on the field from Harper's Ferry. According to Toombs' battle report, he had recognized the importance of the position and requested reinforcements to stop the Union assaults.

...it was for this purpose that I so often and urgently asked the aid of a regiment on the day of the battle, not having another man available for that purpose. Not being able to get any re-enforcements for the defense of these two fords, and seeing that the enemy was moving upon them to cross, thus enabling him to attack my small force in front, right flank, and rear, and my two regiments having been constantly engaged from early in the morning up to 1 o'clock with a vastly superior force of the enemy, aided by three heavy batteries...the ammunition of both regiments being nearly exhausted, and Eubank's battery having been withdrawn to the rear nearly two hours

before, I deemed it my duty, in pursuance of your original order, to withdraw my command and place it in the position designated by you opposite the two lower fords, some half a mile to the right and front of your line of battle.[18]

For Oliver Case and the soldiers of the 8th Connecticut, they would no longer find themselves last in the line of battle for this day as they had been at Snavely's Ford. As the attack began against Toombs and his reorganizing units near the Harper's Ferry road, the 8th Connecticut would be the vanguard of the attack.

ENDNOTES:

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[1] Carman, Ezra Ayres, *Antietam Manuscript* (unpublished), Chapter 21

[2] IBID.

[3] Number 151. Report of Colonel Edward Harland, Eighth Connecticut Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Third Division, of the battle of Antietam. OR Series I Volume XIX Part I

[4] Carman.

[5] Number 234. Report of Brigadier General Robert Toombs, C. S. Army, commanding division (temporary), of the battle of Sharpsburg. O.R. Series I Volume XIX Part I

[6] IBID.

[7] From War Department Tablet No. 308 located west of Boonsboro Pike near intersection with Rodman Avenue, Antietam National Battlefield.

[8] Obituary of Benjamin Franklin Eshleman, accessed from "Find A Grave" at http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=66881495

[9] Number 217. Report of Colonel J. B. Walton, Washington (Louisiana) Artillery, of the battle of Sharpsburg. O.R. Series 1, Vol XIX, Part I

[10] Letter of Lieutenant Matthew J. Graham, formerly of 9th New York Infantry, September 27, 1894, extractedfrom "The Ninth Regiment New York Volunteers (Hawkins' Zouaves): A History of the Regiment and Veteran Association from 1860 to 1900. Access from 1860 to 1900.

[11] IBID.

[12] Number 153. Report of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Curtis, Fourth Rhode Island Infantry, of the battle of Antietam. Series I Volume XIX Part I

[13] Carman.

[14] Curtis.

[15] Harland.

[16] Map adapted from Antietam on the Web, http://www.aotw.org.

[17] Toombs.

[18] IBID.

One thought on "*Across the Antietam: The Operation at Snavely's Ford*"

1. April 27, 2014 at 12:54 pm

Thanks for a well-done blog and for being so respectful to the memory of Oliver Case. FYI: Capt. Wolcott Marsh and Ariel Case married sisters. This explains the frequent references in the letters. Marsh's letters were published in 2006 in a volume titled "Letters to a Civil War Bride: The Civil War Letters of Captain Wolcott Pascal Marsh," by Sandra Marsh Mercer and Jerry Mercer, Heritage Books Inc., Westminster, MD.

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Oliver Cromwell Case

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« Private Waston Carr, 27th Mass Inf
A visit to Oliver's grave »

"…the most sorrowful time that I ever witnessed."

January 7, 2012 by JPRogers

The new year of 1862 did not start well for Oliver Case. He was stuck aboard the schooner "Recruit" in Annapolis Harbor being used as a hospital ship for soldiers in Burnside's expeditionary force awaiting their orders to sail for the coast of North Carolina. He continued to suffer episodes of ague, a condition involving fever, chills, and what he termed as "shakes." Oliver's condition had passed by the time he writes a letter to Abbie on the 7th of January 1862 and he is acting as a medical orderly assisting the physicians in various ways plus pulling guard duty.

However, this letter is the most heartbreaking of any of the letters of Oliver Cromwell Case that I have read. Oliver and his shipmates are only hours from sailing for their first combat experience against the Confederates in North Carolina, but the young soldier must express the deep grief to his sister. As he writes his sister, Oliver is in a time of immense misery having just experienced what he calls "the most sorrowful time that I

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ever witnessed." In the period of just a few days during the first week of the new year, Oliver has lost two of his friends in the regiment. As mentioned in earlier letters, both Duane Brown and Henry D. Sexton have been ill with trips to the hospital while still in the training camp at Annapolis. It seems Brown was suffering with "measles and the Typhus Fever" while Sexton had what Oliver called "jaundice." Henry Sexton had succumbed to the condition at noon on the day Oliver wrote to his sister and Duane Brown appears to have died just a few days before at a hospital ashore and was buried the day before Sexton's death.

I will quote large portions of his letter beginning at this point because I think Oliver describes the experience so well.

Sexton was a little worse Sunday, but not so bad, that he was around. He said that if he were at home he should be sitting in the rocking chair writing but as there was no place to sit down he kept his bunk. I prevailed upon the Dr. to have his bunk changed to a more comfortable one Sunday night and Monday morning I talked with him. I thought that his mind wandered a little. I left him about two. In the morning he was not conscious and repaired nearly all day in the stupid state.

From this point, Sexton's condition takes a horrible turn for the worst.

About three he had a spasm and rushed out of his bunk. I had no control of him as he could handle me like a child...It was very difficult to get anyone to take hold of him as they seemed to be afraid of him. It took five of us to hold him and keep him from tearing his face with his hands. He would bite at us and froth to the mouth, making a horrid noise all of the time. I stayed over him twenty four hours in succession before his death. I never saw anything so horrible in my life and if it had not been for the sailors I do not know what I should have done.

Oliver is very dissatisfied with the medical care his friend received while on the ship and does not mince words.

He never has had any care upon the boat from the Dr...He used to come around in the morning and ask him how he did – tell him to cover up and keep warm – perhaps give him a pill. He had only his own blanket and lay down upon the lower deck where it was very cold, damp, and close and where it was an impossibility to keep warm. I used to give him my blanket when I was on guard and when he could not get warm got into the berth with him. I tried all I could to have the Dr. convey him to the hospital Sunday when I began to see that he was getting worse. He also begged him to be carried there and he finally promised that he might go the next day, but the next day was too late. With even ordinary care he might have got well in a short time.

Oliver does not want for his sister to share this experience with "anyone whatever" because he "never felt so bad in my life as when I saw that here was no hopes of his recovery." Then comes the heartbreaking portion of the letter that shows the devastation of Oliver's loss. He tells Abbie that "It seemed as though I had lost the only friend I had with me."

In Oliver's moment of deepest grief, we gain a glimpse of the source of sustainment for him and the reason to hope for his friend Henry.

But thanks be to God what is our loss is his gain. He was prepared for the final change. Only the day before he was taken unconscious he remarked that there was only one thing that supported him during

his illness at the hospital, and now when he got low-spirited, "The religion of Jesus Christ was his sustainer."

Oliver then turns to the death of Duane Brown but uses only one paragraph in his description as he was obviously not a witness to his passing.

Duane went to the hospital Sunday with the measles and the Typhus Fever set it, and carried him off. He had the best of care at the hospital, as good or better than he could have had at home. Everyone that has been there speaks of the excellent care, accommodations, food etc. that they get there.

Oliver gives a Abbie a brief report on his duties aboard the ship but quickly returns to conclude by relaying the aftermath of his friend Henry's death.

I got another man to write to Sexton's wife for I could not do it at the time. I telegraphed this morning… We put all of Henry's things in a box and sent by express. They would not let me help pay the expenses because they said that I had done my part by being with him all the time.

Almost anticipating the concerns of his sister, Oliver closes this sad story with another comforting note.

Sexton died easy but unconscious.

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Fill in your details below or click an icon to log in:

brconverse@comporium.net

Richard

Richard K. Converse

From: John Rogers [rogersjp64@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 4:00 PM
To: brconverse@comporium.net
Subject: Oliver Cromwell Case Blog

Richard,
Thanks much for you comment on the blog. I was not aware for the transcribed letters written by Oliver to his sister. The only letter I was aware of was written by Oliver to his brother in December 1861 which I obtain a copy of from the Connecticut Historical Society.

Oliver's body was taken back to Simsbury by his father in December 1862 according to the post-war writings of his brother, Alonzo. This is from the timeline entry on the blog:

Friday 19 Sep 1862 (morning)
Captain Wolcott P. Marsh, Company F, 8th CVI, discovers the body of Oliver Case on the battlefield along with fellow soldiers from Company A, Orton Lord, Martin Wadhams and Lucius Wheeler.

Ariel and Alonzo Case of the 16th CVI are given permission to search for the body of their brother Oliver Case of Company A, 8th CVI. Alonzo believes that he was killed in action based on a conversation with an unknown friend of Oliver's from the 8th. The friend saw him fall during the final assault, but Oliver did not respond when his friend called for him.

(afternoon)
The Case brothers find Oliver on the battlefield shot through the head. He is buried near members of the 16th with a note containing identifying information pinned to the inside of his coat.

Dec 1862
Job Case travels to the Antietam battlefield to recover the remains of his son, Oliver Cromwell Case. He finds his son's remains and has him return to Simsbury for burial in the central cemetery in the middle of town.

I have never been to Connecticut. However, I hope to do so at some point in the future. I'm in the Army stationed in Georgia currently, so my time to work on this is limited. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to post those letters from Oliver to his sister if you ever have the opportunity to obtain copies.

Thanks again. It's great to know someone else is trying to capture Oliver's story for history!

J.P. Rogers

rogersjp64@gmail.com
http://olivercromwellcase.wordpress.com/

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Another of Oliver's Letters

January 31, 2010 by JPRogers

Scott Hann recently alerted me to the presence of a letter written by Oliver Case in June 1862. The letter is currently available for sale and the complete transcription can be viewed at The Excelsior Brigade.

Oliver wrote this letter on Friday, June 6, 1862 while in camp at Newberne, NC during a time that the historian of the 8th called "a period of rest and refitting." During March and April of 1862, the 8th saw its first combat action as a part of General Burnside's offensive against Confederate forces at New Berne.

Oliver addresses the letter to "Dear Friend" with no real clue as to the identity of its intented recepient. He indicates that he is writing this letter in response to a letter received from his friend on the 27th of May 1862. He thanks his friend for providing details of other campaigns that Oliver and his fellow soldiers were not privy to in their camp. Oliver also tells of a division review by General Burnside that occurred during the previous week of May 25th and a brigade drill for the day he is writing the letter that is cancelled due to rain.

Oliver goes on to describe the conditions in the camp:

Our encampment here is the pleasantest in the division and under the strict security rules which are now adopted, I think it can not fail to be as healthy as any other in this region. The surgeon has ordered whisky and quinine to be dealt out each day to the men to keep off intermittent fever so prevalent in these latitudes.

It's also clear that Oliver has a least some touch of homesickness. His regiment was afforded the opportunity to spend time in the city of Newberne and it reminds Oliver of his home state of Connecticut:

The city of Newberne is one of the pleasantest cities I ever was in. It resembles New Haven as far as the large shade trees are concerned. But in one thing it is deficient, that is in large clocks or splendid residences and in fact the buildings would not compare favorably with those in one of our towns.

Oliver closes the letter with news of the promotions and transfers of officers in his company:

Lieutenant W. P. Marsh has been promoted to Captain of the Company F. I can tell you our company felt bad to lose him as he was thought of very much by his men. Orderly William J. Groatch has been promoted to Lieutenant and is just the man for the place. He was presented with a sword by the company the same day he was promoted.

This is another wonderful glimpse of the person of Oliver Cromwell Case. The big question remains as to whom this letter is written. It would be easy to speculate that this letter may have been written to Miss Jennie A. Hartford who had her name written in Oliver`s Bible. Certainly, there is no romantic tone to this letter, but it may be that his relationship with Jennie was simply a friendship at this point.

Whatever the case, Oliver and the 8th CVI would depart the environs of the North Carolina coast headed for Newport News, Virgina and then Fredericksburg, Virgina. Just over 3 months after writing this letter, Oliver and the 8th would enter Maryland headed for the town of Sharpsburg.

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By JP Rogers

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Oliver's Prediction on when the Civil War would end

July 26, 2011 by JPRogers

As the Union and Confederate forces prepared to do battle at Manassas in July 1861, many on both sides of the line believed it would be a short war. These expectations were soon drown in the blood of soldiers of this battlefield. However, both Confederate and Union leaders and soldiers still believed it would be a short war from a historical perspective. Six month or a year at the most was the conventional wisdom. In November of 1861, Oliver Case developed his own theory of how long the war would last. He wrote to his sister while on break from patrolling the city of Annapolis that "I do not believe that it [the war] is to be finished so soon; perhaps it may not last more than a year or a year and a half but that is as soon as I expect it will be ended." For Oliver and his fellow soldiers of the 8th CVI, it was a waiting game to even get into the war. He penned what seemed to be the prevailing sentiment amongst the soldiers, "…we do not care how soon we go south notwithstanding we have good quarters here and much more freedom than we shall have there."

For Private Case, the war would end in less than a year near the Harper's Ferry Road just outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Benejah Holcomb

July 9, 2011 by JPRogers

At the end of his letter written to his sister on October 20, 1861, Oliver notes for Abbie that "have seen Benejah today." According to my best research efforts, this is a reference to Benejah Holcomb who was from Granby which is about two hours walking distance from Simsbury. He enlisted in the 8th CVI on September 11, 1861. He was discharged from the 8th on January 1, 1863. He was a descendant of Lieutenant Benejah Holcomb, a

Revolutionary War hero, and he was also a distant cousin of Oliver and Abbie Case. In subsequent letters, Benejah is mentioned on several occasions.

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Simsbury Day 3

June 12, 2011 by JPRogers

We began the day by visiting the services of the First Congregational Church in Simsbury now known as the First Church of Christ. It was wonderful to be in the historical church where the Case family once worshipped. We had lunch at Pettibone Tavern now operated as Abigail's Grille.

This leads me to Emily's evaluation of the hamburgers in Simsbury:

Day 1 – Plan B Burger Bar – The best burger by far! Top quality beef!

Day 2 – Iron Frog Tavern – 3rd place but still a great burger.

Day 3 – Abigail's Grille – Runner-up in close race but the meat couldn't compete with Plan B.

Back to Oliver Case…still working through the transcripts!

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Simsbury Day 2

June 12, 2011 by JPRogers

Since we were so busy yesterday, I was not able to post our day 2 adventures. We spent a few hours in Hartford at the Connecticut Historical Society doing some research. Thanks to the folks at CHS, we discovered some important information on a few of Oliver's family members and friends. Also, I was able to view a letter written by Henry Sexton, a close friend of Oliver who would later die of disease as Oliver attended to him.

Back in Simsbury, we received the tour of the grounds of the Simsbury Historical Society including the Phelps' Tavern. Again, thanks to all the wonderful people there in Simsbury who are so eager to help us find out more about Oliver. I've been pouring over the transcripts of Oliver's letters to his sister Abbie and I hope to post some of my finding over the coming days. Simsbury Historical Society

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Oliver Visits a "Colored Church"

June 10, 2011 by JPRogers

On November 10, 1861 while the 8th CVI trained in Annapolis, Maryland, Oliver had the opportunity to visit a "Colored Church" [as he referred to it] for the Sunday evening services. As evidenced by his letter to his sister Abbie on November 13, 1861, his visit was quite memorable.

I attended colored church Sunday evening and if there ever was ever enthusiasm in any place, there was there. Whilst the minister was preaching there was much shouting and clapping of hands. his subject was the readiness of Christ to receive all sinners; he was quite eloquent, but he handled the subject different from what we usually hear it. After the sermon there was delivered such prayers accompanied by such yelling and groaning as you never heard, but the climax was not reached until they commenced to sing, each one singing to suit him or herself using same repetition (to suit his taste) after every line. The other words appeared to be composed for the occasion; they kept time by snapping fingers, stamping, rocking their bodies too [sic] and fro. Every little while such unearthy [sic] shouts were made that it really reminded me of a mad house. There was a little negro sitting by the side of me, and seeing that I was pleased said, 'You ought to hear them. Some nights they make a heap more noise than tonight, sometimes they knock down the stove by their stamping.'

You can just imagine Oliver sitting there with look of amazement.

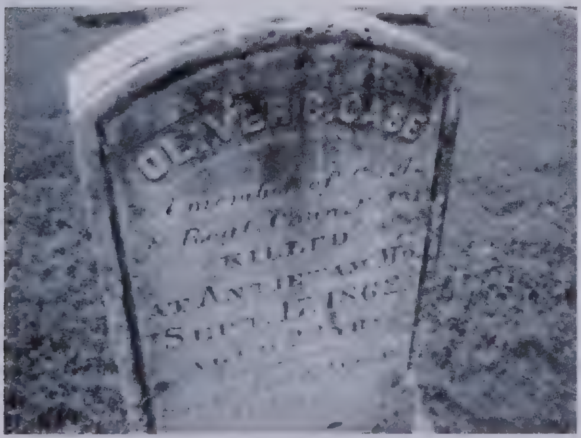
Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Day One in Simsbury

June 10, 2011 by JPRogers

Day one in Simsbury or I should say 1/2 day in Simsbury. We met some great folks at the Simsbury Historical Society who were extremely helpful. We look forward to working with them more in the coming days. It was wonderful to start reading some of Oliver's letters. More posts to follow on the letters…

For me, the best part of the day was finding the grave of Oliver Cromwell Case in the Simsbury Cemetery.

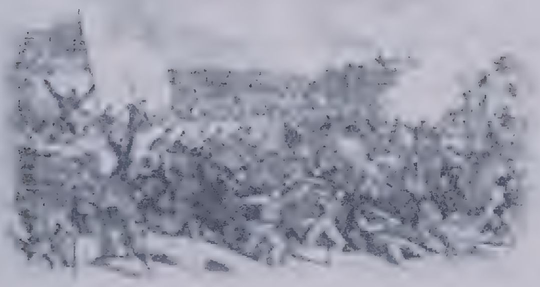


The grave of Pvt. Oliver Cromwell Case in Simsbury

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Oliver Case and the 8th CVI at New Bern

February 7, 2011 by JPRogers



The Battle of New Bern (NC), March 1862

On March 13th 1862, BrigGen Ambrose Burnside led about 11,000 Union troops in a landing on Slocum's Creek near New Bern, NC. Today, this area is the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. Burnside's objective was the capture of the town of New Bern and gaining controling of the railroad supply line at Goldsboro, a vital transportation link for the Confederates.

Oliver Case and the 8th CVI fought in this battle as part of BrigGen Parke's brigade. On March 13, 1862, Parke's Brigade made a "slow" landing at the mouth of Slocum's Creek from small boats ferried by a tugboat. The brigade moved up the right bank of the Neuse River until they hit the entrenchments of the Confederate forces defending New Bern. The entrenchments were abandoned, but the brigade continued its march until nightfall. General Parke reported that "roads generally were in bad order, and the men marched in many localities through water and mud. In addition, heavy showers fell at intervals during the day and night, and although the men had their overcoats and blankets the bivouac was extremely trying." [OR, Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

In the early morning of March 14, 1862, General Parke advance his brigade toward New Bern where the unit is quickly engaged by Confederate forces in entrenchments. Colonel Rodman, commander of the Fourth Rhode Island (later to become the division commander and be killed in action at Antietam), discovered an opening in the entrenchments by which the Confederates can be flanked. Parke quickly ordered the brigade to attack the entrenchments and the Confederate were soon flanked and the center of the Confederate line was broken. [Reports of Harland and Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

General Parke reported that all the regiments "were under fire, and the officers seemed proud of the men they were leading and the men showed they had full confidence in their officers." Two soldiers are killed in action and

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Another of Oliver's Letters

January 31, 2010 by JPRogers

Scott Hann recently alerted me to the presence of a letter written by Oliver Case in June 1862. The letter is currently available for sale and the complete transcription can be viewed at The Excelsior Brigade.

Oliver wrote this letter on Friday, June 6, 1862 while in camp at Newberne, NC during a time that the historian of the 8th called "a period of rest and refitting." During March and April of 1862, the 8th saw its first combat action as a part of General Burnside's offensive against Confederate forces at New Berne.

Oliver addresses the letter to "Dear Friend" with no real clue as to the identity of its intented recepient. He indicates that he is writing this letter in response to a letter received from his friend on the 27th of May 1862. He thanks his friend for providing details of other campaigns that Oliver and his fellow soldiers were not privy to in their camp. Oliver also tells of a division review by General Burnside that occurred during the previous week of May 25th and a brigade drill for the day he is writing the letter that is cancelled due to rain.

Oliver goes on to describe the conditions in the camp:

Our encampment here is the pleasantest in the division and under the strict security rules which are now adopted, I think it can not fail to be as healthy as any other in this region. The surgeon has ordered whisky and quinine to be dealt out each day to the men to keep off intermittent fever so prevalent in these latitudes.

It's also clear that Oliver has a least some touch of homesickness. His regiment was afforded the opportunity to spend time in the city of Newberne and it reminds Oliver of his home state of Connecticut:

The city of Newberne is one of the pleasantest cities I ever was in. It resembles New Haven as far as the large shade trees are concerned. But in one thing it is deficient, that is in large clocks or splendid residences and in fact the buildings would not compare favorably with those in one of our towns.

Oliver closes the letter with news of the promotions and transfers of officers in his company:

Lieutenant W. P. Marsh has been promoted to Captain of the Company F. I can tell you our company felt bad to lose him as he was thought of very much by his men. Orderly William J. Groatch has been promoted to Lieutenant and is just the man for the place. He was presented with a sword by the company the same day he was promoted.

This is another wonderful glimpse of the person of Oliver Cromwell Case. The big question remains as to whom this letter is written. It would be easy to speculate that this letter may have been written to Miss Jennie A. Hartford who had her name written in Oliver's Bible. Certainly, there is no romantic tone to this letter, but it may be that his relationship with Jennie was simply a friendship at this point.

Whatever the case, Oliver and the 8th CVI would depart the environs of the North Carolina coast headed for

four are wounded.

The attack upon the defenses of Newbern (March 14th) was made at an early hour, and the Eighth assisted in the capture of about five hundred Confederate troops. This was the regiment's first baptism of blood. Its killed were privates Phelps of Company B and Patterson of Company I, with four wounded. The personal bravery of Colonel Harland amid the whistling bullets at Newbern, together with his skill and cool-headedness as a tactician, and his evident desire to shield his men from harm whenever possible, gave them a confidence in him which was never afterward shaken. [Vaill]

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Posted in Uncategorized | 4 Comments »

Back in the Saddle for 2011

January 16, 2011 by JPRogers

The silence on this blog for better than half of last year is not to be attributed to a lack of interest, but to significant changes (for the good) in my personal life. For 2011, I am resolved to jump back in the saddle. My focus is the limit of advance for the 8th CVI and the point of Oliver's demise.

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

Remembering Oliver Case on Memorial Day 2010

May 29, 2010 by JPRogers

It has been about four months since I posted on this blog. I would do great dishonor to Private Case and his fellow Soldiers who "gave their last full measure of devotion" if I did not render a few appropriate comments on the occasion of Memorial Day.

On October 11, 1894, Captain Henry R. Jones delivered the dedication speech for the monument to the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment at the Antietam battlefield. One paragraph seems particularly fitting:

But how shall tongue recount the stubborn fighting all throughout the day, the awful carnage all along the line, as four times the field was lost and won ? How shall we picture the desperate conflicts in the cornfield and in the "bloody lane," or tell how Burnside held the hill, or the Eleventh stormed the bridge, or Harland's Brigade forded the stream in the face of furious cannonading and raking musket fire ?

As so many hundreds of thousands have done throughout the history of our nation, Oliver Case did his duty that day in September of 1862 and the price was his life. For this act of ultimate sacrifice, I am grateful.

Newport News, Virgina and then Fredericksburg, Virgina. Just over 3 months after writing this letter, Oliver and the 8th would enter Maryland headed for the town of Sharpsburg.

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Welcome to Oliver Cromwell Case

"If you die, die like a man."

These are the words written inside the front cover of Oliver Case's pocket Bible that he carried into battle on September 17, 1862.

This site is dedicated to the memory of Private Oliver Cromwell Case, 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, killed in action at the Battle of Antietam as his regiment heroically attacked Confederate positions in the direction of the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

In 1993, I obtained a Bible belonging to Private Case. Since that time, I have conducted research into the life and family of Oliver Case and the 8th CVI. Many questions were answered; still more questions remain.

This blog shares some of that information and my continuing search. Please refer to the column on the right of this page for posts.

I welcome any comments or information about Private Case or the 8th CVI.

Thoughts about Oliver Case on Independence Day

July 4, 2009 by arrowandbow

"…we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract." From The Gettysburg Address, given by President Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863.

I wish I knew more about Oliver Cromwell Case, Private, 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment, but I don't. This I do know…he was among over 600,000 Americans killed by other Americans between 1861 and 1865 in order to determine the real meaning of July 4, 1776. The southern states saw it as a second war for independence. The north saw it as necessary to preserve the Union. The fact is, as stated by President Lincoln, brave men consecrated the battlefields of the war far beyond anyone's "power to add or detract" from their sacrifice.

Thank you, Private Case.

The Two Graves of Oliver C. Case

March 27, 2009 by arrowandbow

Private Oliver Cromwell Case has two graves. One is located in the Antietam Battlefield Cemetery (photo above) and the other is in the Simsbury Cemetery in his hometown of Simsbury, Connecticut (article and cemetery photo below). Where is he actually buried? Good question. I believe his remains were transferred to the Simsbury Cemetery in December of 1862 by his father as the article states, but we cannot be completely certain. His brother's letter (coming soon to a post) indicates that a paper identifying Oliver was pinned to his coat before he was buried in a temporary grave after the battle.

Vandals Topple Gravestones
June 2, 2004
By DON STACOM, Courant Staff Writer

SIMSBURY — The headstone for Union soldier Oliver Cromwell Case has stood over his grave at Simsbury Cemetery since 1862, when a grieving Job Case buried his 22-year-old son after the bloody Battle of Antietam. Now the marble monument lies face down in the dirt, toppled during the Memorial Day weekend in a vandalism spree at one of the town's oldest burial grounds. Vandals knocked over 27 gravestones and shattered another one, doing thousands of dollars in damage. But the timing of the destruction infuriated local veterans, and dismayed townspeople who lined the sidewalks of Hopmeadow Street for the Memorial Day parade Monday. 'It makes me sick that someone would do that. This was a soldier at Antietam. There's no respect for people,' said Evan Woollacott, commander of the town's American Legion Post. Cemetery officials spotted the damage Monday afternoon as they prepared for a Memorial Day ceremony to dedicate a new flagpole on the hilly property. Several parade spectators walking back to their cars also noticed, said Jackson F. Eno, president of the Simsbury Cemetery Association. 'It was disgusting. First we saw a couple of stones were knocked over and thought it was done by one jerky kid. Then we realized the magnitude and felt sicker,' Eno said Tuesday. Police suspect the vandals randomly knocked down gravestones Sunday night or early Monday. Three detectives examined footprints and looked for other evidence Tuesday. Eno offered a $1,000 reward for information leading to arrests and convictions. The vandals broke some stones off their bases, and shattered one by prying it out of the ground and smashing it against a larger granite monument. Oliver Cromwell Case joined the Connecticut Volunteers Eighth Regiment, and was killed at Antietam in September 1862, according to documents at the cemetery and the historical society. In a letter, his brother Alonzo wrote of searching the battlefield with another brother, Ariel, for the body. 'We found him lying dead,' Alonzo Case wrote. 'We got help and had him buried near the men of the 16th … His body remained here until Dec., when father went and had it brought to Simsbury for burial. Those were sad days for me.' Simsbury police Sgt. Brian Cavanaugh is asking for tips. Det. Jim Polomsky can be reached at 860-658-3130.

Who was Miss Jennie A. Hartford?

March 30, 2009 by arrowandbow

In Oliver Case's Bible two other names are written. One is his younger sister, Miss Abbie J.[Abigail Jane] Case and the other is a Miss Jennie A. Hartford. Based on my research of Miss Hartford, I believe she was likely his love interest and possibly she may have been engaged to marry him. Her name was written just above his name in the Bible and she was the same age as Oliver, born in 1840. Could it be another broken heart caused by the Confederate bullet that ended Oliver's life? It is certainly possible.

In 1863, the year following Oliver's death, she married James Wesley Latimer who was likely a distance cousin of Oliver and Abbie.

Walking in Oliver's Steps

[illegible], 2011 by JPRogers

It seems that anyone who is interested may soon be able to follow the final attack trail at Antietam to the 9th NY and 8th CVI monuments via a trail extension being funded and constructed by the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF). The new trail extension will also allow access to the Rodman mortuary cannon. Previously, access to the monuments was only available via a path from the Harper's Ferry Road with the only parking along the roadway. It was impossible to make the complete final attack walk. As I understand the route of this new trail, it will follow the left flank of Harrison's Brigade or the right flank of the 8th CVI. Although it may not match Oliver's exact route of march on the day of the battle, it will be good to "walk in his steps" to the place where a Confederate bullet ended his young life on September 17, 1862. Thanks to the many volunteers of SHAF for their great work!

Read more in the SHAF newsletter.

Oliver's Prediction on when the Civil War would end

[illegible] JPRogers

As the Union and Confederate forces prepared to do battle at Manassas in July 1861, many on both sides of the line believed it would be a short war. These expectations were soon drown in the blood of soldiers of this battlefield. However, both Confederate and Union leaders and soldiers still believed it would be a short war from a historical perspective. Six month or a year at the most was the conventional wisdom. In November of 1861, Oliver Case developed his own theory of how long the war would last. He wrote to his sister while on break from patrolling the city of Annapolis that "I do not believe that it [the war] is to be finished so soon; perhaps it may not last more than a year or a year and a half but that is as soon as I expect it will be ended." For Oliver and his fellow soldiers of the 8th CVI, it was a waiting game to even get into the war. He penned what seemed to be the prevailing sentiment amongst the soldiers, "...we do not care how soon we go south notwithstanding we have good quarters here and much more freedom than we shall have there."

For Private Case, the war would end in less than a year near the Harper's Ferry Road just outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Go

CWSAC Battle Summaries

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)

ABPP Home
Battles by State
Battles by Campaign

Antietam

Other Names: Sharpsburg

Location: Washington County

Campaign: Maryland Campaign (September 1862)

Date(s): September 16-18, 1862

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Forces Engaged: Armies

Estimated Casualties: 23,100 total

Description: On September 16, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan confronted Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Sharpsburg, Maryland. At dawn September 17, Hooker's corps mounted a powerful assault on Lee's left flank that began the single bloodiest day in American military history. Attacks and counterattacks swept across Miller's cornfield and fighting swirled around the Dunker Church. Union assaults against the Sunken Road eventually pierced the Confederate center, but the Federal advantage was not followed up. Late in the day, Burnside's corps finally got into action, crossing the stone bridge over Antietam Creek and rolling up the Confederate right. At a crucial moment, A.P. Hill's division arrived from Harpers Ferry and counterattacked, driving back Burnside and saving the day. Although outnumbered two-to-one, Lee committed his entire force, while McClellan sent in less than three-quarters of his army, enabling Lee to fight the Federals to a standstill. During the night, both armies consolidated their lines. In spite of crippling casualties, Lee continued to skirmish with McClellan throughout the 18th, while removing his wounded south of the river. McClellan did not renew the assaults. After dark, Lee ordered the battered Army of Northern Virginia to withdraw across the Potomac into the Shenandoah Valley.

Result(s): Inconclusive (Union strategic victory.)

CWSAC Reference #: MD003

Preservation Priority: I.2 (Class A)

National Park Unit: Antietam NB

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The Journey to New York

[illegible] by JPRogers

On the 17th of October 1861, the 8th CVI was transferred to Federal service and departed Hartford bound for a camp of instruction in New York. Below is a brief timeline of events surrounding that journey constructed from Oliver's letters and other sources:

17 Oct 1861 – 4:00pm
The 8th CVI is officially transferred to federal service and departs Camp Buckingham in Hartford via ship bound for the Camp of Instruction on Long Island, NY (Jamaica). Unit strength is listed at 1,016. Cheering crowds greet the soldiers making their way down the Connecticut River.

As it[the ship]passed towards the river, the departing soldiers were greeted with waving flags and resounding cheers from proud relatives and friends, and grateful strangers, who only knew them as a part of the grand Union army going eagerly forth to offer vicarious atonement for the sins of the nation. [Croffut and Morris]

Although a multitude of rumors spread through the ranks, Oliver and the soldiers of the 8th CVI have no clue as to their destination. They must settle into the cramped quarters of the ship and wait. Much to their delight, the soldiers of Company A find some of the better accommodations aboard the boat.

Our quarters,that is Co. A's, were in the gangway forward of the shaft. We spread our beds all over the floor and bunked in like a mess of pigs; some were in the water shoe deep. I managed to get a dry place and with my knapsack for a pillow slept soundly for about two hours when I heard my name called loud enough to start any living person to stand guard for an hour over our traps (?) and guns.[Case Letters]

18 Oct 1861
12:30am
After being relieved from his duty of guarding the baggage and weapons, Oliver finds that he is unable to accomplish any restful sleep probably caused by the combine effects of anticipation and the cramped quarters on the ship. [Case Letters]

4:00am
As the fog clears, the lights of New York City come into view for the soldiers of the 8th CVI. [Case Letters]

6:00am
The boat puts ashore at Staten Island and the soldiers of the 8th scramble to find their knapsacks and other equipment. The horses are taken off the ship and the soldiers don their knapsacks in anticipation of leaving the ship. Much to their disappointment after standing for hours, the troops are not allowed to disembark. Their ship must wait for the *Granite State* to come up from New York. [Case Letters]

9:00am
After waiting for 3 hours, the soldiers of the 8th are told they are not going ashore at Staten Island. The horses are reloaded and the ship travels back by New York City to a destination yet unknown to the soldiers. [Case Letters]

3:00pm
The ship arrives at Hunter's Point, Long Island. Some of the members of the regiment are allowed to leave the ship, but the troops of Company A wait for another two to three hours before boarding a train to their Camp of Instruction at Jamaica, Long Island. As Oliver views the long day of delays with a sense of humor writing, "All things must have an end and so did our waiting." [Case Letters]
Evening

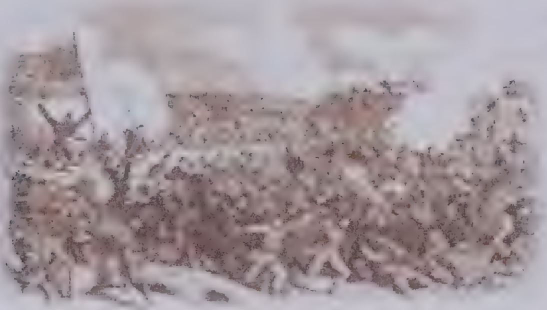
A heavy rain falling since the afternoon prevents the assembly of tents at the camp so the soldiers spend their first night on Long Island sleeping under the stars. An abundant supply of cedar trees provides bedding for tired troops. [Case Letters]

19 Oct 1861
Sunrise

Oliver and his fellow soldiers awake to find that the rain coupled with a heavy fog has left all the equipment including their guns wet and rusting. The soldiers will spend the day cleaning and drying. [Case Letters]

Oliver Case and the 8th CVI at New Bern

[illegible] 2011 by JPRogers



The Battle of New Bern (NC), March 1862

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Oliver Case and the 8th CVI fought in this battle as part of Brig Gen Parke's brigade. On March 13, 1862, Parke's Brigade made a "slow" landing at the mouth of Slocum's Creek from small boats ferried by a tugboat. The brigade moved up the right bank of the Neuse River until they hit the entrenchments of the Confederate forces defending New Bern. The entrenchments were abandoned, but the brigade continued its march until nightfall. General Parke reported that "roads generally were in bad order, and the men marched in many localities through water and mud. In addition, heavy showers fell at intervals during the day and night, and although the men had their overcoats and blankets the bivouac was extremely trying." [OR, Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

In the early morning of March 14, 1862, General Parke advanced his brigade toward New Bern where the unit is quickly engaged by Confederate forces in entrenchments. Colonel Rodman, commander of the Fourth Rhode Island (later to become the division commander and be killed in action at Antietam), discovered an opening in the entrenchments by which the Confederates can be flanked. Parke quickly ordered the brigade to attack the entrenchments and the Confederate were soon flanked and the center of the Confederate line was broken. [Reports of Harland and Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

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The attack upon the defenses of Newbern (March 14th) was made at an early hour, and the Eighth assisted in the capture of about five hundred Confederate troops. This was the regiment's first baptism of

blood. It's killed were privates Phelps of Company B and Patterson of Company I, with four wounded. The personal bravery of Colonel Harland amid the whistling bullets at Newbern, together with his skill and cool-headedness as a tactician, and his evident desire to shield his men from harm whenever possible, gave them a confidence in him which was never afterward shaken. [Vaill]

The 8th was first in the battle in which they fought bravely…Gen Burnside came along up side of our Regt an[d] order[ed] us to charge on them in which we did in double quick time in which they fired upon us killing 8; wound[ed] several. It was a bold attempt but we won the victory driving the rebels in every direction. [Harrington]

Oliver's Birthday?

April 2, 2009 by **arrowandbow**

I have always found Oliver's birthday listed as simply 1840. However, according to the Family Tree Maker site, ***Descendants of Thomas Ensigne,*** *his date of birth is* December 22, 1839. This would have made him 22 years old at the time of his death on September 17, 1862.

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April 2, 2009 by arrowandbow

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Oliver Cromwell Case

The Story of a Soldier (December 22, 1839 – September 17, 1862)

Feeds:

Posts
Comments

Timeline for the 8th CVI Related to Oliver Case – August 1861 to December 1862

March 28, 2009 by arrowandbow

This is a rough timeline for the 8th CVI for its first year. It is taken from several sources as noted. Many of the dates/times for the Battle of Antietam were taken from a timeline on the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers website.

Sequence for 8th CVI August 1861 to December 1862

Date/Time Event/Remarks

3 Aug 1861 General Order No. 49 is published by the War Department authorizing call up of additional troops from the states. Connecticut is tapped for over 13,000 additional soldiers.

16 Sep 1861 Oliver Cromwell Case of Simsbury enlists in Company B, 8th CVI.

27 Sep 1861 8th CVI organized at Camp Buckingham, Hartford with Colonel Edward Harland of Norwich as Commander. COL Harland had recently returned from a three months' service as a Captain in the 3rd CVI.

1 Oct 1861
The Secretary of War Simon Cameron requests that Connecticut Governor William A. Buckingham send the two Connecticut regiments preparing for service to Camp Hempstead, Long Island, with instructions to report to General Burnside for orders.

1 Oct 1861 Oliver C. Case is transferred to Company A, 8th CVI.

17 Oct 1861
(Afternoon) The 8th CVI is officially transferred to federal service and departs Hartford bound for the Camp of Instruction on Long Island, NY (Jamaica). Unit strength is listed at 1,016.

1 Nov 1861 8th CVI moved to Annapolis, MD.

13 Dec 1861
8th CVI participates in a Brigade Review with 3 other regiments at Annapolis. [O.C. Case letter]

14 Dec 1861
8th CVI participates in a Division Inspection with 10 other regiments at Annapolis. [O.C. Case letter] Oliver Case receives a package from his brother with food, dishes and other items.

15 Dec 1861
Oliver writes a letter to his brother thanking him for the package. According to the letter, most of the food items are ruined, but Oliver and his friends managed to "feast" on the walnuts and chestnuts. Oliver includes two interesting rumors. First, COL Harland (his regimental commander) is attempting to have the 8th remain at Annapolis throughout the winter. Also, there is a rumor "that the negroes have burnt Charleston." After this rumor, Oliver includes his one word commentary, "Good." Interestingly, toward the end of the letter, his previously beautiful handwriting begins to waver which Case attributes to an unexplained trembling of his hand. [O.C. Case letter]

Early Jan 1862
8th CVI sails for the coast of North Carolina as part of Burnside's North Carolina Expeditionary Force.

7 Feb 1862
8th CVI participates in Burnside's landing at Roanoke Island, NC. In operations against the Confederate Forces, the regiment suffered no KIA or wounded because they were held in reserve during the entire battle.

8 Feb 1862
The regiment is assigned the duty of holding "the landing and bivouac grounds, and prevent the enemy from turning our position by coming through the timber down the beach." The Regimental Surgeon, Surgeon Storrs, is assigned responsibility for preparing receiving areas for the wounded of the brigade. [Report of Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. John G. Parke, dated 9 Feb 1862; Report of Surgeon Church dated 12 Feb 1862]

Feb-Mar 1862
The 8th CVI is garrisoned with the remainder of Burnside's forces on Roanoke Island.

13 March 1862
The regiment is part of Burnside's offensive against Confederate forces at New Bern, NC. Parke's Brigade makes a slow landing at the mouth of Slocum's Creek from small boats ferried by a tugboat. The brigade moves up the right bank of the Neuse River until they hit the entrenchments of the Confederate forces defending New Bern. The entrenchments were abandoned, but the brigade continued its march until nightfall. General Parke reported that "roads generally were in bad order, and the men marched in many localities through water and mud. In addition, heavy showers fell at intervals during the day and night, and although the men had their overcoats and blankets the bivouac was extremely trying." [Parke, 22 Mar 1862]

14 Mar 1862 (Early morning)
At about 7:00 am, the brigade continues its advance toward New Bern and is quickly engaged by Confederate forces in entrenchments. Colonel Rodman, of the Fourth Rhode Island, discovers an opening in the entrenchments by which the Confederates can be flanked. General Parke orders the brigade to attack the entrenchments and the Confederate are soon flanked and the center of the Confederate line is broken. [Reports of Harland and Parke, 22 Mar 1862]
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The 8th was first in the battle in which they fought bravely…Gen Burnside came along up side of our Regt an[d] order[ed] us to charge on them in which we did in double quick time in which they fired upon us killing 8; wound[ed] several. It was a bold attempt but we won the victory driving the rebels in every direction. [Harrington]

19 Mar 1862
The 8th CVI and the 4th Rhode Island left New Bern by steamer and traveled down the Neuse to Slocum's Creek where they turned upstream to a landing point determined by General Burnside. [Report of Parke, 9 May 1862]

20 Mar 1862
The 8th and the 4th are joined by Brig. Gen. Parke and his staff. The brigade then marched for Carolina City. [Parke]

22 Mar 1862 The brigade reaches Carolina City.

23 Mar 1862
Brig. Gen. Parke demands the surrender of the Confederate garrison at Fort Macon across the Bogue Sound from Carolina City. The demand is refused and the brigade prepares "for besieging the place." Additional material is moved to the area. [Parke]

23-29 Mar 1862
5 companies from the 8th CVI and 4th RI Regiment [unsure as to which companies] are detached from the Brigade at Carolina City and sent to Morehead City (2 companies – assumed to be from the 4th) and to Beaufort (3 companies – assumed to be from the 8th) in order to "seize all the boats and cut off all supplies for the garrison and stop all communication" with Fort Macon. The movement of the troops to Beaufort by boat is constantly under fire from the Confederates at Fort Macon. The force at Beaufort (assumed to be the 8th) established communications with the Union blockading fleet and the Confederate lines of communication with Fort Macon are severed. [Parke]

29 Mar 1862
Brig. Gen. Parke begins the movement of troops and material to effect the siege of Fort Macon. This movement continues until 10 April 1862 as only light draft boats are able to cross the sound. Seven companies of the 8th CVI are included in this force. [Parke]

12 Apr 1862
After some initial probing attacks by Parke's Brigade, a permanent advance guard of five companies is organized and moves on the approaches to Fort Macon. According to Parke's report "a skirmish occurred with the enemy, in which Captain Sheffield [of Company H] and a private of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment were wounded." [Parke]

Between 12 Apr and 24 Apr 1862
During this period, the brigade continues to push toward Fort Macon. The Confederates attempt two counterattacks to break the siege of the forts.

The enemy made two ineffectual attempts at night to dislodge us from our advanced position, in one of which Lieutenant Landers and a private of the Fifth Rhode Island Battalion were slightly wounded, and in the other Major Appleman and a private of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment received severe contusions from a discharge of grape while digging rifle pits within 750 yards of the fort. [Parke]

The siege of Fort Macon terminated during the last week in April by the surrender of the Confederate garrison – forced to such decision by the bombardment of Union batteries, which were supported by the Eighth. During the greater portion of the siege, – Colonel Harland being prostrated by typhoid fever – the regiment was under command of Major Appelman, who received a painful though not dangerous wound from a canister shot. [Vaill]

Late Apr to 1 July 1862
The regiment enjoyed a period of rest and refitting at New Bern. [Vaill]

2 Jul 1862
The 8th CVI is transported by rail to Morehead City, NC where they board the streamer "Admiral" and travel to Newport News, VA. The regiment spent the remaining days of July at Newport News. [Vaill]

1 Aug 1862
The 8th and the 11th CVI travel by transport to Aquia Creek and then by rail to Fredericksburg, VA where they are assigned picket duty. The 8th camped on the grounds of the famous Lacy House across the river from the city. [Vaill]

1 Sep 1862
Union forces to include the 8th CVI are ordered to evacuate Fredericksburg and return to Washington, DC. [Vaill]

3 Sep 1862
The 8th arrives at Washington, DC and makes camp on the grounds of the Capitol. [Vaill]

Sun 7 Sep (early AM)
8th CVI departs Washington, DC. Once on the road, they are delayed until 1000. Roads were crowded with the wagon trains of the AOP and soldiers. The sun was very hot and the march route was covered with a dust cloud that was stifling. Marched 10 miles that day. Halted near "Leeboro" (likely Leesburg in Maryland) [Marsh]

Thu 11 Sep 1000
8th CVI passes through the village of Damascus (Maryland) where they take a rest halt. They move on to Ridgeville near Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Heavy rain began after nightfall and continued all night. [Marsh]

Fri 12 Sep (morning)
8th CVI goes on the march again following along the B&O line for part of the march. Again this day, the wagons and soldiers created a significant impediment to movement along the muddy road. They take a rest halt in New Market before marching into the city of Frederick. The Union soldiers are well received in the city. The regiment camped on the grounds of a hospital where there were both Union and Confederate patients being treated. CPT Marsh recounts being invited into a Frederick home for supper along with CPT Smith of Company E. [Marsh] Charles Buell (Company E) recorded that the soldiers were given wine and they had "hot tea and warm biscuit with butter." [Buell]

Sat 13 Sep (morning)
8th CVI is cheered again by the citizens as they leave Frederick. The regiment deploys skirmishers as they prepared to cross Braddock mountain outside of Frederick. They entered Middletown on the far side of the mountain. Although it appeared that they were close behind the enemy, there was no engagement. [Marsh; Buell]

Sun 14 Sep (early morning)
8th CVI was awaken at daylight by the sounds of battle coming from South Mountain. The regiment ate a breakfast of "bushmeal" before moving out toward the sound of battle in the late morning. [Buell] The regiment moved up the mountain toward the battle and deployed into a line of battle. However, no engagement with the enemy occurred. Silence settled over the area at around 9:00 pm and the 8th slept in their battle positions. [Marsh]

Mon 15 Sep
The regiment wakes early and moves to the top of the mountain where all of Rodman's division forms a line of battle. There will be no more fighting here because the Confederates are gone. Dead Confederate soldiers lay where they fell among the rocks and trees. The regiment marches on and arrives in Keedysville around midnight where they rest. [Buell; Marsh] At some point during the march, Harland's Brigade is joined by the new 16th CVI. The 16th is a green regiment recently raised in Hartford County, Connecticut with almost no drill training. [Marsh] It is assumed that Oliver Case was reunited with his two brothers, Ariel and Alonzo, who are members of the 16th. Harland's Brigade continues the march to Boonsboro.

Tue 16 Sep
The 8th continued to march toward the far side of the Antietam Creek opposite the town of Sharpsburg near the Rohrbach Bridge (aka Lower Bridge and later known as Burnside's Bridge).

1:00 pm
The regiment is placed into a line of battle behind a hill opposite the Rohrbach Bridge about 1:00pm. The wagon trains are shelled and 4 soldiers are killed. Near nightfall, the regiment settles into battle positions for the night on the hills opposite the Rohrbach (Burnside) Bridge. Captain Marsh described the night as "dark and misty." The Union regiments were not allowed to light fires. However, the glow from the fires of the Confederate soldiers across the Antietam could be clearly seen. All the officers and men seem to understand that tomorrow there will be a large battle. [Marsh; Buell]

Wed 17 Sep (early morning around 6:00 am)
The troops of the 8th are awaken and prepared immediately for battle. Just as daylight breaks, the Confederates begin to shell the units of the IX Corps including Rodman's division and Harland's brigade. Colonel Harland moves his brigade down Rohrbach lane to support a Union

battery. The Confederates continue lobbing shells that are air burst artillery rounds as well as solid shot. Captain Marsh notes that there was no counterbattery fire from the IX Corps artillery units. Several soldiers of the 8th were killed or wounded during this bombardment including a member of Companies F and A and a Sergeant Marsh (unsure of unit). [Marsh, Buell]

Around 7:00 am
Harland moves his brigade to the left rear into a swale and then faces the brigade to the left.

About 7 o'clock, in accordance with an order received from General Rodman, I moved the brigade into a position to the rear and to the left of the one formerly occupied, facing to the left, the new line of battle forming nearly a right angle with the old one. In this position we remained between one and two hours. Our next movement was a change of front formed on first battalion. This brought the line of battle in a position parallel to the one occupied at first, the right resting about 200 yards in the rear of the first position to the left. [Harland]

Around 7:15 am
A Confederate solid shot from artillery across the creek lands in the 8th CVI's area killing three soldiers and wounding four in Company D. [8th CVI website]

Around 7:30 am
Harland moves the 8th back to the front of his brigade.

Around 8:10 am
Harland begins to extend his lines to the left by moving his brigade minus the 11th CVI detached to serve as skrimmers for the Rohrbach bridge assault.

Around 9:00 am
The 8th CVI is relocated to a ravine further to the left of the line. This provides some protection from the shelling. [Marsh]

Around 10:00 am
The 11th CVI is designated to act as skirmishers in the attempted capture of the Rohrbach Bridge. The mission ends quickly in disaster as the Georgia troops on the far side of the creek have clear shots at soldiers of the 11th. Captain Griswold leads his company of the 11th in an attempt to wade the creek just below the bridge. The captain and many of his men are shot down in the water. The regimental commander, Colonel Kingsbury is mortally wounded during the assault. About the same time or shortly thereafter, two companies of the 8th CVI are sent downstream to find a ford. [Sears' book]

The remaining soldiers and officers of the 8th CVI watch the attempts to take the bridge by New York and Pennsylvania regiments. Captain Marsh calls it "the Grandest sight of my life." [Marsh] It is believed that Marsh was watching the attempted assault by Crook's brigade. Crook was unable to get his brigade beyond the fence along the Rohrbach Bridge road.

Around 11:30 am
Rodman's division was ordered to move left, downstream to cross at the ford supposedly identified the previous day by General McClellan's engineers. Two companies of the 8th CVI are sent to find the ford. The ford identified by the engineers is not Snavely's ford and is being defended by sharpshooters of the 50th Georgia on the high banks of the far side of the creek. It took Rodman's division two hours to locate and move to Snavely's ford only two miles from the Rohrbach Bridge.

I then sent out two companies of skirmishers from the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers to discover, if possible, a ford by which the creek could be crossed. [Harland]

Around 12:30 pm
The remainder of Harland's Brigade is moved to Snavely's Ford.

Around 1:00 pm
The Georgia troops on the far side of the Antietam Creek pulled back from the creek as the other IX Corps units had successfully secured the Rohrbach Bridge almost simultaneously. Rodman's division successfully crosses the Antietam at Snavely's ford and moves up a ravine toward Sharpsburg. The 8th CVI is temporarily detached to provide protection for a Union battery on the far side of the creek.

General Rodman ordered me to detach one regiment for the support of the battery belonging to the Ninth New York Volunteers, and to send the remaining regiments of the brigade across the creek in rear of the First Brigade, and, when I had placed the regiment in proper position, to join the balance of the brigade. I found the battery on the hill just below the ford. I detached the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, placed it in what I considered the strongest position for the defense of the battery, and then crossed the ford. [Harland]

Around 2:00 pm
The 8th rejoins Harland's Brigade for the movement over the rolling hills toward Sharpsburg. Harland's Brigade is ordered to the far left of Rodman's Division.

While in this position the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers rejoined the brigade, and I moved still more to the right, in the direction of the bridge, and halted in the woods, just under the brow of the hill. From this point I was conducted by an aide of General Rodman, and placed in position in the rear of the First Brigade. [Harland]

Around 4:00 pm
General Rodman orders his division to advance toward Sharpsburg and the Confederate defenders. Fairchild's Brigade begins to advance. Harland orders his brigade to advance, but only the 8th moves forward. For unknown reasons, the 16th CVI and the 4th Rhode Island do not advance.

4:05 pm
Harland notices that the 16th and 4th are not moving. He requests guidance from Rodman as to halting the 8th. Rodman instructs him to let the 8th advance. Rodman assumes the mission of hurrying the other two regiments.

When the order was given by General Rodman to advance, the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, which was on the right of the line, started promptly. The Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers, both of which regiments were in a cornfield, apparently did not hear my order. I therefore sent an aide-de-camp to order them forward. This delay on the left placed the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers considerably in the advance of' the rest of the brigade. I asked General Rodman if I should halt the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and wait for the rest of the brigade to come up. He ordered me to advance the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, and he would hurry up the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers I advanced with the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and commenced firing. [Harland]

4:10 pm
As the Colonel Harland continues to move forward with the 8th, he notices that the Confederates are now on his left flank. General Rodman has turned the 16th CVI to face left and exposed the flank to the Confederates.

4:15 pm
Rodman realizes his mistake, but is shot in the chest as he turns the 16th toward the Confederates. Men from the 8th bear his body to the rear. Colonel Harland has turned his horse to alert the 16th of the danger, but his horse is shot from under him.

The Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the Fourth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers not coming up, I turned to see if they were advancing, and saw some infantry belonging to the enemy advancing upon our left flank. Knowing that if they were not checked it would be impossible to hold this part of the field, without waiting for orders, I put the Spurs to my horse to hasten the arrival of the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. My horse was almost immediately shot under me, which delayed my arrival. I found that the Sixteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers had changed their front, by order of General Rodman. The line was formed facing to the left, and was nearly a prolongation of the enemy's lines, except that they faced in opposite directions. I immediately ordered Colonel Beach to change his front, so as to attack the enemy on the right flank. This change was effected, though with some difficulty, owing to the fact that the regiment had been in service but three weeks, and the impossibility of seeing but a small portion of the line at once. [Harland]

4:18 pm
Although Harland continues toward the 16th on foot, he is unable to turn the "green" unit in the confusion of battle and a cornfield. The 16th and the 4th break and run from the field.

4:20 pm
The 8th CVI continues moving forward and to the right toward the crest of the hill held by Confederate infantry under Toombs. Toombs has moved McIntosh's Battery to meet the advancing 8th and fires canister directly into the advancing regiment.

4:25 pm
In spite of the hail of fire from the Confederate guns, the 8th continues to advance overrunning the guns.

4:30 pm
Captain Upham and soldiers of Company K, 8th CVI capture McIntosh's Battery, but only momentarily. The Confederates counterattack with renewed strength from the recently arrived troops of A.P. Hill's division. The 8th loses the guns, but continues to fight.

4:35 pm
Fairchild's Brigade fighting to the right of the 8th is ordered to retire from the field. The 8th continues to fight, but is being flanked by the 7th and 37th North Carolina regiments. All the members of the 8th CVI's Color Guard are killed in the fighting. The regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Appelman is seriously wounded and taken from the field. Major Ward assumes command.

It is believed that at this point in the battle Private Oliver Cromwell Case of Company A, 8th CVI is killed by a bullet that strikes him in the front of the head just above his ear line. His personal belongings may have been pilfered shortly afterward by the Confederates who retook this ground upon which the 8th fought so bravely. I believe Case's bible was likely taken by a Confederate soldier who later traded it for food or other items to someone living in or around Sharpsburg. I believe that had the bible been on his person when his brothers found his body two days later, they would have kept it for the family. From there it somehow found its way to a yard sale in Germantown, Maryland in 1993. This is only a theory.

4:40 pm
Realizing that his regiment is alone and being flanked, Major Ward orders the 8th to retire. It takes three attempts to get the soldiers of the 8th to abandon the fight. The regiment retires in good order.

5:00 pm
The 8th finds shelter and rest in the swale near the Otto House.

6:00 pm
Colonel Harland is able to gather the remnants of his brigade of the road west of the Rohrbach Bridge.

Friday 19 Sep 1862 (morning)
Captain Wolcott P. Marsh, Company F, 8th CVI, discovers the body of Oliver Case on the battlefield along with fellow soldiers from Company A, Orton Lord, Martin Wadhams and Lucius Wheeler.

Ariel and Alonzo Case of the 16th CVI are given permission to search for the body of their brother Oliver Case of Company A, 8th CVI. Alonzo believes that he was killed in action based on a conversation with an unknown friend of Oliver's from the 8th. The friend saw him fall during the final assault, but Oliver did not respond when his friend called for him.

(afternoon)

A particularly poignant piece he's found comes in a letter written by Oliver's brother Alonzo of the 16th Infantry …

... sometime that afternoon [19 Sept] we found the body of our brother we were looking after. He was no doubt killed instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in my blanket and carried him to the spot where the 16th dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Colonel of the Eighth and the 16th to do so. The 16th men were buried side by side in a trench and they dug a grave about 6 [feet] from them and we deposited the remains of my brother and that having first pinned a paper with his name and age on the inside of the blanket. Then they put up boards to each with name and Regiment on them. His body lay there until December when father went there and brought the body to Simsbury where it now lies to mingle with the sole of his native town.

The Case brothers find Oliver on the battlefield shot through the head. He is buried near members of the 16th with a note containing identifying information pinned to the inside of his coat.

Dec 1862
Job Case travels to the Antietam battlefield to recover the remains of his son, Oliver Cromwell Case. He finds his son's remains and has him return to Simsbury for burial in the central cemetery in the middle of town.

The Burial of Oliver Case

March 28, 2009 by JPRogers

Source: The following passage is taken from "Recollections of Camp and Prison Life" by Alonzo Grove Case, Company E, 16th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers (from the collection of The Simsbury Historical Society):

I went with my Brother to the Eighth Regiment to learn the fate of my younger Brother Oliver and found only eight or 10 of his company left from about 40 they had in the morning. Was told by a comrade that stood beside him that he fell and he called him by name but no reply. Said he was no doubt killed. The next morning we were marched down near the bridge and lay there all day. No one was allowed on the field as it was held by sharpshooters on both sides. The next day September 19 myself and brother had permission to go over the field and what for our brothers body being very sure he was dead we each took our canteens filled with water and commenced that awful sickening tramp and if I could picture to you the sad sites that we beheld. The ground for acres and miles in length were strewn with dead and wounded. The wounded crying for water they having lain there the whole day before and two nights — but everyone was looking for some comrade of their own Regiment but some time that afternoon we found the body of our brother we were looking after. He was no doubt killed instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in my blanket and carried him to the spot where the 16th dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Colonel of the Eighth and the 16th to do so. The 16th men were buried side by side in a trench and they dug a grave about 6 [feet] from them and we deposited the remains of my brother and that having first pinned a paper with his name and age on the inside of the blanket. Then they put up boards to teach with name and Regiment on them. His body lay there until December when father went there and brought the body to Simsbury where it now lies to mingle with the sole of his native town.

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Posted in Uncategorized | Tagged Alonzo, Case, simsbury | No Comments Yet

Oliver Cromwell Case

The Story of a Soldier (December 22, 1839 – September 17, 1862)

The Capture of McIntosh's Battery

October 3, 2012 by JPRogers

On the afternoon of September 17, 1862 as the 8th Connecticut climbed the rolling hills toward Sharpsburg, Company K temporary captured the Confederate artillery battery of Captain David Gregg McIntosh. Today, two guns represent that battery in the approximate location on the battlefield.

...there was a battery of 3 guns on the hill abandoned. my comp was then detached to take the battery we started with a cheer we got within 6 or 7 rods of the battery when we saw the Rebs were lying down behind their guns. we opened on them before they had time to oopen on us. that was all that cared the Regt they were closed en masse & then was into line when tehy would have opened on them with grape. we played on them untill we heard a yelling on our left & there came up a Rebel Brigade. we then commenced on them we were firing brisk when we heard them shout we were surroun -ded on three sides. still the men fought bravely. the CAptain finally ordered us back...

From the Diary of Roger M. Ford 1st. Lt. Co. K, Eighth Conn. Vols., Antietam National Battlefield collection.

Posted in 17 Days in September | Leave a Comment »

Oliver Cromwell Case

The Story of a Soldier (December 22, 1839 – September

The Final Journey Home: December 1862

September 29, 2012 by JPRogers

"Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home." – Tecumseh

(Huge hat tip to John Banks for his research on the Connecticut dead at Antietam!)

On September 27, 1862, the Hartford Courant published an article about the battle of Antietam focused on the 16th CVI along with a listing of all Connecticut causalities from the battle of Antietam. From this article it is clear that this was likely not the first time that Job Case and his family discovered that Oliver had been killed in action. The article alludes to prior public knowledge of the battle via unidentified "letter writers" and the common practice of the day was to post (or read) the casualty list in a public place. Also, Ariel and Alonzo may have written letters home that arrived in Simsbury prior to this date.

Only three days later, the Courant published a letter written by the adjutant of the 16th Connecticut, Lieutenant John Burnham. In his letter, Burnham provided a detailed account of the grave sites of all the soldiers in his regiment buried on the field at **Antietam. Among these soldiers of the 16th CVI was the body of Oliver Case buried by** his brothers in the same location on September 19th. Burnham noted that each grave was carefully marked by a headboard containing the name and the unit of the soldier.

From Alonzo Case's recollections written after the war, we know that in December of 1862, Oliver's father, Job Case traveled from Simsbury to the battlefield at Antietam for the purpose of recovering the remains of his son. The elder Case may have enlisted the services of a well-known Hartford undertaker, William W. Roberts, who assisted many Connecticut families with returning the remains of their loved ones killed at Antietam (HT: John Banks). Job Case had the remains of his son exhumed from the temporary grave on the Otto farm and returned his body to Simsbury. Oliver was laid to rest with multiple generations of his ancestors in the Simsbury Cemetery located in the heart of town.

The Simsbury Cemetery off Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, Connecticut

Nearly 15 months after he departed his hometown, Private Oliver Cromwell Case had now returned home to rest with honor.

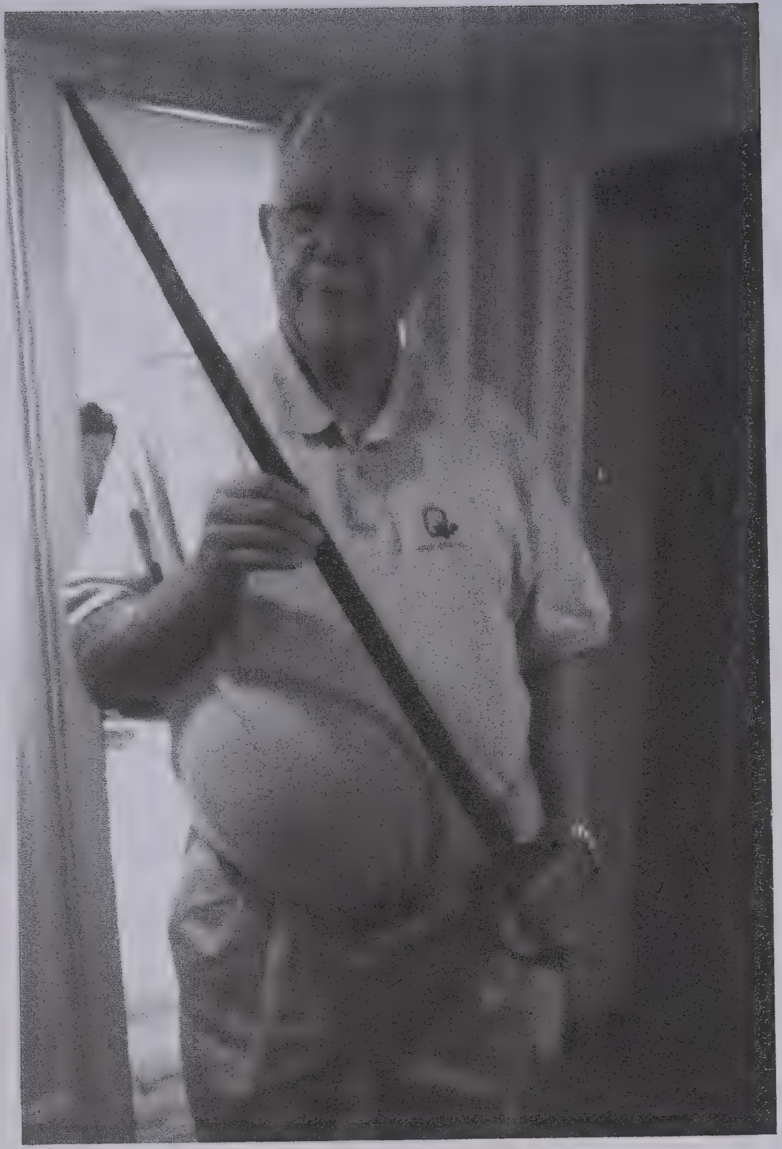
In modern times, two gravestones stand for Oliver Cromwell Case, one at the Antietam National Cemetery and the other at the Simsbury cemetery. It is possible that after Job Case removed his son's remains from the burial site on the battlefield in December of 1862 that the temporary grave marker was left in place. Hence, when the removal of the dead soldiers from their battlefield gravesites to the new national cemetery began in October of 1866, the workers may have found this marker and established a grave in the new cemetery even though remains were not present. As described by those who traveled over the battle in subsequent years, many of the dead soldiers' remains were dug up by swine feeding in the fields. This means that the absence of actual remains may not have been considered unusual by those teams exhuming the bodies for burial in the national cemetery. In fact, the remains of an unidentified New York soldier were discovered by a park visitor in October of 2008.

However, the official report on the establishment of the cemetery creates the impression that each deceased soldier was properly identified before his internment in the cemetery.

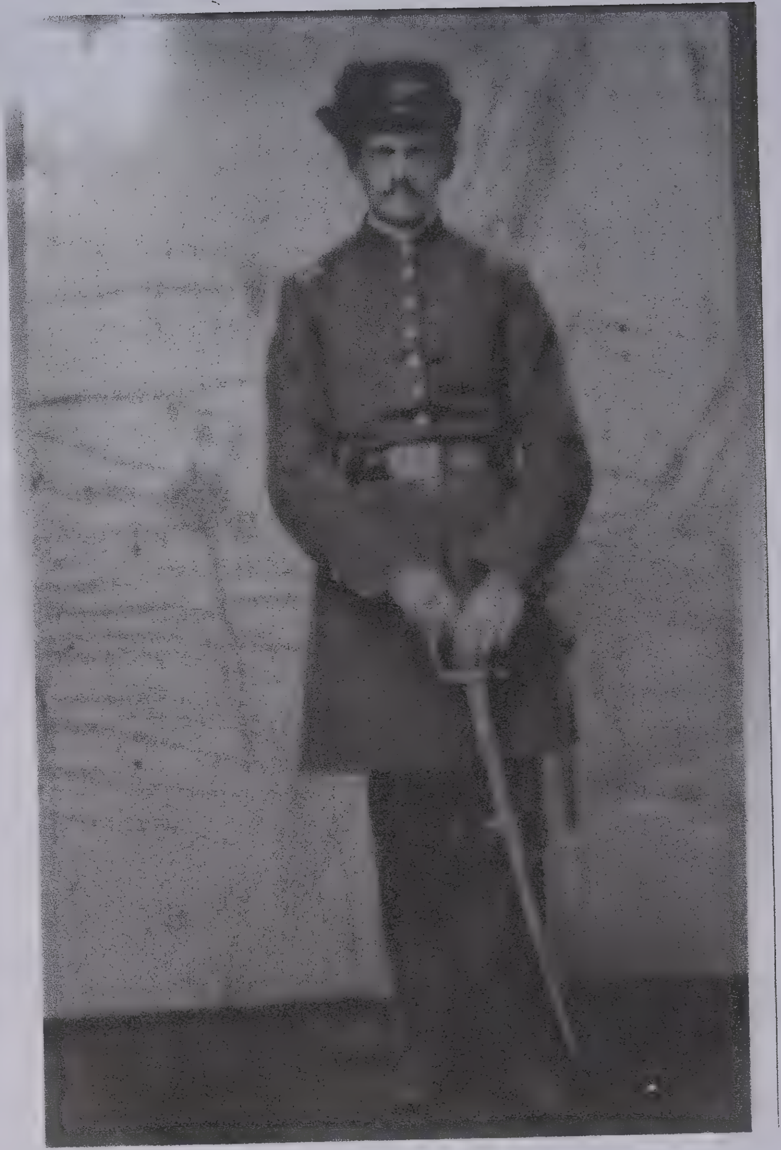
They were exhumed, placed in coffins, and delivered to the Superintendent, who buried them at the expense of the Association. In the burial of the dead every coffin was numbered, and a corresponding number entered in a book kept for this purpose, with the name, company, regiment and State, when they could be ascertained, so that, at any time, by reference to the records, the location of any grave can at once be found. The dead were buried under the immediate supervision and eye of the President, who held the tape line over every coffin deposited, and entered the name, number and company in his field-book, before any earth was replaced. By his record, therefore, any body can be identified at any time, when called for. [History of the Antietam National Cemetery, 1869]

The grave of Oliver C. Case in Simsbury, Connecticut

The grave of O.C. Case in the Antietam National Cemetery



Richard K. Converse



Alonzo G. Case

Lieutenant Alonzo Case's Sword

LIEUTENANT ALONZO GROVE CASE'S SWORD

Alonzo G. Case, a veteran of the Civil War, was a lineal decendant of John Case, who first settled in Windsor, CT. In 1669, John sold his house and shop and moved to Simsbury, settling in Weatogue, where he farmed the land and raised stock.

His son John, one of ten children, was but seven when his family moved to Simsbury. He too took up farming, and he raised six children.

Job, born in Simsbury in 1737 was too a farmer, although he served as an officer (Captain) in the Revolutionary War and later was a member of the State Legislature.

One of Job's ten children was Ariel Case, born on the farm in Terry's Plains, Simsbury in 1765. He was largely engaged in stock raising. He and his wife had seven children, including Job Case, named after his grandfather.

Job Case was born on the farm in Simsbury in 1805. As a man, he practiced farming, as did all of his ancestors, raising stock and subsequently became the first to raise tobacco in Simsbury. He was a State legislator and became a captain of the cavalry in the State Militia. He and his wife had five children, one of

whom was Alonzo G. Case.

Alonzo was born on the homestead at Terry's Plains in 1834. He remained at home with his parents and helped with the farm. He married in October 1859. At the start of the Civil War, he enlisted in July 1862 in Company E, 16th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. He was mustered as a Private, but was soon promoted to First Sargeant in August 1862, then to Second Lieutenant on January 13, 1863, and then to First Lieutenant in May 1863.

His first military action came in September of 1862. The Union army was being invaded on two fronts - Lee was holding Richmond, VA against McClellan's forces, and these two warriors were also engaged at Sharpsburg, MD. President Lincoln badly needed a victory, but the struggle was too even. The Battle of Antietam (MD) began on September 16, 1862 just outside of Sharpsburg when Gen. Joseph Hooker attacked the Confederates near the Dunker church. The next day fighting would move to the Sunken Road and then to the bridge at Antietam Creek. What happened then proved to be the bloodiest single day since the war began. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, who commanded the Union forces, on the third day stormed the little bridge over Antietam Creek with 12,500 men against barely 400 Georgians. But the Rebels commanded the bluff overlooking the bridge. The Southerners held Burnside for three hours, fighting off four bloody charges before the Union army managed to cross the Creek. At night, Burnside stopped his advance, and the fighting died away. The Union had lost 2108 dead, 10,293 more wounded or missing. Lee had lost 10,318 men, but the number represented one-forth of his army. Lee's invasion

had been stopped. Alonzo G. Case had been one of the wounded, having taken a bullet in his side.

Five days after the battle, Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation that abolished slavery.

Gen. George McClellan had proven himself too conservative for Lincoln. He blamed the heavy losses at Antietam on McClellan's reticence to send fresh troups to help Burnside. Lincoln replaced George McClellan with Burnside. Burnside was far more agressive than his predecessor. In December, Burnside's army faced Lee once again, this time across the Rappahannock River at Frederickburg, VA. Lee had Generals Longstreet and Stonewall Jackson. Burnside's main assault would come from Gen. Joseph Hooker's forces.

On December 13, 1862 Hooker began his attack. The air was thick with flying, bursting shells. Sargeant Case was there, his wounds having healed sufficiently. Burnside's men conducted fourteen asaults before Burnside decided that he could not rout Gen. Lee. Burnside was disgraced by his loss of 12,600 men. Fredericksburg had been a disaster, but Sargt. Case had been lucky. The Confederates had lost 5300, most of them missing - gone home for Christmas.

Winter had come and the conditions in the field were terrible.

Camps were filthy and disease became the chief killer of the war.

Lincoln replaced Gen. Burnside after he tried to move his troup through ankle deep mud in a sleet storm, only to have them bog down to a standstill. It was known as the "Mud March". His replacement was Gen. Joseph Hooker who had fought so valiently at Antietam. Hooker said, "May God have mercy upon General Lee".

General Hooker faced General Lee once more at Fredericksburg. In order to outsmart Lee, Hooker sent his troups up the Rappahannock River, then across the river to Chancellorsville. On the way, Alonzo Case was at Edenton Road on April 24, 1863. On May 1st, Hooker's troups were in Chancellorsville, but Lee got wind of the Union toups to his rear and he split his army so as engage Hooker's army. Alonzo Case was at Providence Church, VA on May 3rd. Lee forced Hooker back across the Rappahannock by May 6th. During this fighting, Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded mistakenly in the confusion by his own troups. But it had been a brilliant, if not costly, victory for Lee.

WO

May 1863 saw Gens. Grant and Lee at Vicksburg, MS, July pitched Gens. Meade and Lee at Gettysburg, PA, and November found Gens. Sherman and Bragg at Chattanooga, TN. Lincoln was desperate for good leadership. He had tried McClellan twice, Burnside, Hooker, and Meade had also failed. But Gen. Sherman had distinguished himself in Tennessee and Gen. Grant had showed himself to be a hard-liner against Lee. Lincoln chose Grant to lead the Armies of the Union. Lincoln made him a Lt. Gen., the first since Washington had that special rank. He would command 533,000 men.

Not at this time

It was now Grant against Lee. in VIRGINIA

Grant's plan was to consentrate his armies into four coordinated blows against the Confederacy.

1) Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was to lead an army up from the James River.

2) Gen. Franz Sigel would advance up the Shenandoah.

3) Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman was to march from Chattanooga to Atlanta.

4)Gen. George Meade was to lead the Army of the Potomac in chasing Lee south.

Lieutenant Alonzo Case was with the Meade army and was shot in the foot during the early stages of Gen. Meade's advance on Lee. Case was captured by the Confederates on May 1864 during the Battle of the Wilderness and sent to the prison at Andersonville, Macon GA. until July, 1864, then to Savannah during August and September, then to Charleston and finally to Columbia, SC. Grant kept pushing Lee south with both sides losing heavily of their resources. There were the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, VA, and then Grant surprised Lee by going around Richmond to Petersburg, which was lightly defended. Meanwhile, Sherman was moving on Atlanta, and finally won it in July 1864.

On April 9, 1865, Gen. Lee surrendered the remnants of his tattered and hungary army to Gen. Grant in Lynchburg in a house near the Appromattox Court House. The War was over.

Lt. Case was paroled February 28, 1865, and discharged May 15, 1865. During his prison life Lt. Case suffered extreme privation. He was reduced to clothing made from flour sacks, and his feet were protected with bits of cloth taken from an old overcoat. He had lost forty-five pounds in weight.

He returned to Simsbury to resume the farming of tobacco and live stock. The Cases had nine children. Then, Alonzo was elected to the State Legislature in 1867. Also, he was Selectman of Simsbury for two years and tax collector for two years.

In 1887, an advertisement appeared in the New York "Sun" newspaper that read:

"A Sword for Lieut. Case or his relatives. To the Editor of the "Sun",

Sir: I am at present boarding with Capt. James A. Marrow who during the war was Captain of Co. H, Fifty-fifth Regiment, North Carolina Troops. He has now in his possession a sword captured at the Battle of the Wilderness bearing this inscription on the scabbard: "Lieut. A. G. Case Co, E 16th Regt. C.V."(Connecticut Volunteers). Capt. Marrow will cheerfully return the sword to

Lieut. Case's nearest relatives if he can obtain their address.

H.T.Harvey (confidant)
Clarksville, VA
Sept 19, 1887"

Lt. Case answered this ad on Sept. 26, sending enough information regarding the battle and his circumstances at that time to convince Mr. Harvey that he was the sword's rightful owner. Case received a letter dated October 12, 1887 from Capt. James A. Marrow as follows:

"Lieut. A.G.Case
Simsbury, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Your kind and valued favor of the 26th inst came to hand a few days ago, and as I am fully impressed with its genuinness, I have decided to return you your sword without further delay. I am a true American & have no desire to retain any relic as a triumph of Americans over Americans. I am glad to know that you are yet amoung the living and I heartily join you in the desire to grasp my hand & unite with you in the prayer for peace, trusting that you may ever be happy in this life & when we "cross over the river & and rest under the shade of the trees" in the Lord's kingdom that we know each other/& enjoy peace & life enternal. Should you ever come to this section I would be glad to entertain you.

Yours very truly,

James A. Marrow
Late Capt., Co. H 55th Regiment, N.C.Troops

(The sword goes by express today)"

Case must have written on October 14th, because we have the following letter from Marrow:

"Lieut. A.G.Case
Simsbury, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 14 inst received. The sword was shipped per Express the 13th & charges of 50 cents paid at New York. The Express agentsaid he could only send it to New York. If the New York agent has not forewarded it on to you, you had better write him at once. I enclose the Southern Express Cos. receipt which will aid you in case you should be put to any further trouble. I am truly glad to be of any service to you in the matter & hope by this time you have received it.

Very truly yours,

H.T.Harvey
Late Co. H, 18th VA Regt, Pickett's Division, A.N.V."

Case writes again on October 28th, and the following is the reply:

Lieut. A.G.Case
Simsbury, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Your valued favor of the 28 inst came to hand a few days ago. I am glad to know that you received the sword all right & and greatly appreciate what you have to say in regard thereto. Replying to your questions: I was not with the 55th N.C.Troops at the Battle fo Plymouth. Soon after this, the Regt. joined the Army of Northern Va. I joined it a few days previous to the Battle of the Wilderness & was then promoted from private to 1st Lieut. The sword came into my possession then, but I cannot now remember exactly how; whether one of the officers or men gave it to me. It has been in my possession ever since, till I returned it to you.

Your best route to my place is direct to Richmond, Va. thence on

Your best route to my place is direct to Richmond, Va, thence on the Richmond & Danville R.R. to Keysville, thence on the Richmond & Micklenburg R.R. to Clarksville, Va. The proprietor of the Roanoke Valley Hotel at Clarksville can direct you to my residence, which is about 7 miles south of Clarksville near the state line between Va & N.C.

I sincerely hope you will come down & visit me & talk over old times. I will be most happy to entertain you & make the occasion most agreeable. I have now with me a gentleman from your state, a Mr. Daniel Seword who is getting hickory spokes & logs for shippment to the New Haven Wheel Co.

This section abounds with game, deer, turkey, partridges & wild geese. Bring your gun along & we will have nice sport. I have a well trained dog & am very fond of hunting.

Mr Harvey desires to extend you his kindest regards & hopes you will not fail to come.

Hoping to hear from you again, I am Very truly yours,

James A Marrow

P.S. I learn from a Mr. C.E.Masher, Senica Falls, N.Y. that our correspondence has been published. Will you please send the paper containing same?

J.A.M."

The **Battle of the Wilderness**, fought May 5–7, 1864, was the first battle of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Virginia Overland Campaign against Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War. Both armies suffered heavy casualties, a harbinger of a bloody war of attrition by Grant against Lee's army and, eventually, the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. The battle was tactically inconclusive, as Grant disengaged and continued his offensive.

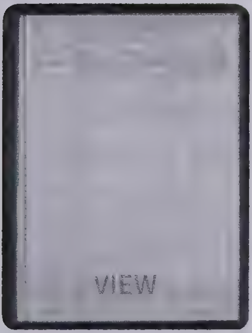
The Case Sword was presented to Alonzo G. Case when he was promoted from 1st Sargeant to Lieutenant on Jan 13, 1863 near Fredericksburg VA by citizens of the town of Simsbury. It was captured during the Civil War (Battle of the Wilderness) and returned to Lt. Case 24 years later. The sword is the version worn by company, or foot, officers through the rank of captain. This sword is a "Model 1850 Foot Oficer's Sword" manufactured by the Collins Company of Canton, CT in 1862. It is 38 inches overall in length, with a 32 inch blade, etched with "US" and various military designs (flags, cannons, shields, mottos, etc.). The grip is of wood covered with fish skin and wound with an open helix of brass wire. All metal parts of the hilt are brass. The scabbard is metal with brass mountings.

The sword is now part of the Simsbury Historical Society collection.

Inhabitants Simsbury, Hartford Cty, Conn
July 8, 1870

Alonzo G Carr in the 1870 United States Federal Census

(Case)



View blank form

Name:	Alonzo G Carr [*Alonzo Grove Case*]
Age in 1870:	36
Birth Year:	abt 1834
Birthplace:	Connecticut
Home in 1870:	Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Post Office:	Simsbury
Value of Real Estate:	View image

Household Members:

Dwelling House	Name	Age		Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Where Born	Attended School
252	Alphens Chafee	75	M	Farmer	$4,000	$1,000	Conn	
	Julia Chafee	60	F	Keep house			〃	
	Alonzo G Carr (Case)	36	M	Farmer	$3800	$500	Conn	
	Julia I Carr (Case)	31	F	Keep house			〃	
	Tellie I Carr (Case)	9	F				〃	✓
	Alfred I Carr (Case)	4	M				〃	✓
	Oliver P Carr (Case)	2	M				〃	

Inhabitants Simsbury, Hartford Cty, Conn.
June 18, 1880 by Alonzo G. Case

Alonzo G. Case in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: Alonzo G. Case
Age: 46
Birth Year: abt 1834
Birthplace: Connecticut
Home in 1880: Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut
Race: White
Gender: Male
Relation to Head of House: Self (Head)
Marital Status: Married
Spouse's Name: Julia S. Case
Father's name: Job Case
Father's Birthplace: Connecticut
Mother's Birthplace: Connecticut
Neighbors: View others on page
Occupation: Farmer

View image

Household Members:

Name	Age		Occupation	Place of Birth
Alonzo G. Case	46	M	Farmer	Conn
Julia S. Case (wife)	40	F	Keeping House	″
Alfred T. Case	14	M	Farm Labor	″
Oliver C. Case	12	M	Farm Labor	″
Charles P. Case	9	M		″
Burton G. Case	7	M		″
Julia A. Case	5	F		″
Case	3m	F		″
Job Case (Father)	74	M	Farmer	″
Julia Chaffee (M I L)	70	F	Keeping Home	Mass

CT.

Alonzo Grove Case[1]

b. 7 June 1834, d. 5 May 1902

Pop-up Pedigree

Alonzo Grove **Case** was born on 7 June 1834 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.[1,2] He was the son of **Job Case** and Abigail Griswold **Phelps**.[1] Alonzo Grove Case married Julia Salome **Chaffee**, daughter of Alpheus **Chaffee** and Julia **Alderman**, on 19 October 1857 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.[1] Alonzo Grove Case died on 5 May 1902 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT, at age 67.[1,2] He was buried at Hopmeadow Cemetery, Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.

Alonzo was a Lieut. in Co. E 16th Regiment C. V. and a member of St. Mark's Lodge # 36 AF&AM. The Ensign Record gives the marriage date as 19 Oct 1859. Alonzo enlisted 7 August, 1862, mustered 24 August 1862, and most likely served at Antietam.

He participated in the battle of Fredricksburg, VA December 12-14, 1862, Edenton Road 24 April 1863, Providence Church, VA, 3 May 1863, and Plymouth, NC, 20 April 1864 where he was shot in the foot and taken prisoner, confined at Andersonville prison. He was paroled February 28, 1865, and discharged 15 May 1865.

During his prison life he suffered estreme privation. He lost over 45 pounds and suffered greatly from hunger, and in consequence of the ill treatment he received, he was a physiical wreak and later suffered from asthma contracted in prison. Returning from the war he engaged in tobacco growing and dairy and general farming.
[3]

A complete history of the 16th can be found at: History of the 16th Connecticut Regiment, Volunteer Infantry

Alonzo and Julia were enumerated in the 1900 Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT, federal census, page 8B. He was 65, she was 60 and they had been married 40 years. Daughter Julia was the only child remaining in the household.

Children of Alonzo Grove Case and Julia Salome Chaffee

- Alfred Terry **Case**+[4] b. 19 Jan 1866, d. 1938
- Oliver Phelps **Case**[5] b. 6 Jan 1868, d. 24 Jul 1956

Citations

1. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 143, Item 402.
2. [S354] Martha Eunice Ensign Nelson, *Ensign Record*, Page 136.
3. [S418] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case 2nd Edition.*

4. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 533.
5. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 534.

Julia Salome Chaffee[1,2]

b. 1 July 1839, d. 26 March 1923

Pop-up Pedigree

Julia Salome **Chaffee** was born on 1 July 1839.[1] She was the daughter of Alpheus **Chaffee** and Julia **Alderman**.[2] Julia Salome Chaffee married Alonzo Grove **Case**, son of Job **Case** and Abigail Griswold **Phelps**, on 19 October 1857 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.[1] Julia Salome Chaffee died on 26 March 1923 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT, at age 83.[1] She was buried at Hopmeadow Cemetery, Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.

Children of Julia Salome Chaffee and Alonzo Grove **Case**

- Alfred Terry **Case**+[3] b. 19 Jan 1866, d. 1938
- Oliver Phelps **Case**[4] b. 6 Jan 1868, d. 24 Jul 1956

Citations

1. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 143, Item 402.
2. [S418] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case 2nd Edition*, Page 139, Item 402.
3. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 533.
4. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 534.

Alfred Terry Case[1]

b. 19 January 1866, d. 1938

Pop-up Pedigree

Alfred Terry **Case** was born on 19 January 1866 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.[1] He was the son of Alonzo Grove **Case** and Julia Salome **Chaffee**.[1] Alfred Terry Case married Elnora Janette **Hunter**, daughter of Robert **Hunter** and Anna **Milem**, on 25 November 1891 at OR.[1] Alfred Terry Case died in 1938 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.[1] He was buried at Center Cemetery, Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.

Alfred and Elnora were recorded in the 1920 Simsbury census (ED 182, Page 2A, Line 1), with Earl and Kenneth.

Children of Alfred Terry Case and Elnora Janette **Hunter**

- Orine Inez Phelps **Case** b. 4 May 1895, d. 27 Mar 1984
- Albert Job **Case** b. 11 Apr 1897, d. 14 Dec 1899
- Lester Shipley **Case** b. 20 Aug 1899, d. 12 Dec 1899
- Edna **Case** b. 1902, d. 1905
- Earl Phelps **Case**[2] b. 30 Nov 1903, d. 14 Nov 1988
- Adna C. **Case** b. 31 Aug 1905, d. 31 Mar 1911
- Robert **Case** b. 1920, d. 1920

Citations

1. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 533.
2. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 188, Item 601.

Elnora Janette Hunter[1]

b. 13 October 1871, d. 18 January 1956

Pop-up Pedigree

Elnora Janette **Hunter** was born on 13 October 1871 at MI.[1] She was the daughter of Robert **Hunter** and Anna **Milem**. Elnora Janette Hunter married Alfred Terry **Case**, son of Alonzo Grove **Case** and Julia Salome **Chaffee**, on 25 November 1891 at OR.[1] Elnora Janette Hunter died on 18 January 1956 at Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT, at age 84.[1] She was buried at Center Cemetery, Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT.

Children of Elnora Janette Hunter and Alfred Terry Case

- Orine Inez Phelps **Case** b. 4 May 1895, d. 27 Mar 1984
- Albert Job **Case** b. 11 Apr 1897, d. 14 Dec 1899
- Lester Shipley **Case** b. 20 Aug 1899, d. 12 Dec 1899
- Edna **Case** b. 1902, d. 1905
- Earl Phelps **Case**[2] b. 30 Nov 1903, d. 14 Nov 1988
- Adna C. **Case** b. 31 Aug 1905, d. 31 Mar 1911
- Robert **Case** b. 1920, d. 1920

Citations

1. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 176, Item 533.
2. [S59] Ruth Cost Duncan, *John Case*, Page 188, Item 601

Husband: **Alonzo Grove CASE**

Born: 7 JUN 1834 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 19 OCT 1857 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 5 MAY 1902 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

Alonzo Case
Oliver's brother

Wife: **Julia S. CHAFFEE**

Born: 1 JUL 1839 at:
Died: 26 MAR 1923 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Alpheus CHAFFEE
Mother: Julia ALDERMAN
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Lillia Irene CASE
Born: 10 AUG 1860 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 30 APR 1879 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 9 JUN 1913 at:
Spouses: Benjamin Hector SELBY

Name: Alonzo Chaffee CASE
Born: 1 APR 1862 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 1 AUG 1864 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses:

Name: Alfred Terry CASE
Born: 19 JAN 1866 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 25 NOV 1891 at: Oregon
Died: 1938 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Elnora Janette HUNTER

Name: Oliver Phelps CASE
Born: 6 JAN 1868 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 14 MAR 1894 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 24 JUL 1956 at:
Spouses: Martha A. SIMONS

Name: Charles Pitman CASE
Born: 19 JUN 1870 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 14 FEB 1899 at:
Died: 2 MAR 1965 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Sarah Goodwin ENO

Name: Burton Grove CASE
Born: 19 AUG 1872 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 MAR 1899 at:
Died: 18 SEP 1918 at:
Spouses: Bertha Lydia LATIMER May E. SLOAN

Name: Julia Abigail CASE
Born: 29 OCT 1874 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 SEP 1901 at:
Died: 10 MAY 1970 at:
Spouses: Albert Hutchins CROSBY

Name: Jennie Isabel CASE

Husband: **Alonzo Grove CASE**

Born: 7 JUN 1834 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 19 OCT 1857 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 5 MAY 1902 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Julia S. CHAFFEE**

Born: 1 JUL 1839 at:
Died: 26 MAR 1923 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
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Married: at:
Died: 1 AUG 1864 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses:

Name: Alfred Terry CASE
Born: 19 JAN 1866 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 25 NOV 1891 at: Oregon
Died: 1938 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Elnora Janette HUNTER

Name: Oliver Phelps CASE
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Name: Julia Abigail CASE
Born: 29 OCT 1874 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 SEP 1901 at:
Died: 10 MAY 1970 at:
Spouses: Albert Hutchins CROSBY

Name: Jennie Isabel CASE

```
   Born: 24 JUN 1876      at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married:                  at:
   Died: 10 DEC 1876      at:
Spouses:
```

```
   Name: Ida May CASE
   Born: 21 FEB 1880      at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married:                  at:
   Died: 8 SEP 1880       at:
Spouses:
```

Alonzo Grove Case

Found 10 Records, 7 Photos and 1,264,488 Family Trees

Born in **Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut, USA**on **7 Jan 1834** to Job Case and Abigail Griswold Phelps. Alonzo Grove married Julia Salome Chaffie and had 9 children. He passed away on**5 Apr 1902** in **Simsbury, Connecticut, USA**.

Family Members

Parents

Job Case
1805-1899

Abigail Griswold Phelps
1805-1877

Spouse(s)

Children

Julia Salome Chaffie
1839-1923

Julia Abigail Case
1874-1970

Lillia Irene Case
1860-1913

Alonzo Chaffie Case
1862-1864

Alfred Terry Case
1865-1938

Oliver Phelps Case
1867-1956

Charles Pitman Case
1870-1965

Burton Grove Case
1872-1918

Jennie Isabel Case
1876-1876

Ida May Case
1880-1880

Family Group Sheet

Husband: **Alonzo Grove CASE**

Born: 7 JUN 1834 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 19 OCT 1857 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 5 MAY 1902 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Julia S. CHAFFEE**

Born: 1 JUL 1839 at:
Died: 26 MAR 1923 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Alpheus CHAFFEE
Mother: Julia ALDERMAN
Other Spouses:

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Name: Lillia Irene CASE
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Spouses:

Name: Alfred Terry CASE
Born: 19 JAN 1866 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
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Name: Oliver Phelps CASE
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Died: 24 JUL 1956 at:
Spouses: Martha A. SIMONS

Name: Charles Pitman CASE
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Married: 14 FEB 1899 at:
Died: 2 MAR 1965 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
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Name: Burton Grove CASE
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Married: 24 MAR 1899 at:
Died: 18 SEP 1918 at:
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Name: Julia Abigail CASE
Born: 29 OCT 1874 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 SEP 1901 at:
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Name: Jennie Isabel CASE
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Married: at:
Died: 10 DEC 1876 at:
Spouses:

Name: Ida May CASE
Born: 21 FEB 1880 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 8 SEP 1880 at:
Spouses:

Simsbury First Church of Christ

689 Hopmeadow St.
first.church@1stchurchsimsbury.org
K-12 College Prep School

Google Maps

Search for a place

Photos by Steve Schar

Change

Our 3 Centuries of History

A Short History of First Church of Christ in Simsbury, Connecticut

By Donna M. Hopkins, Church Historian

Simsbury is one of the oldest towns in Connecticut, its first settlers arrived in 1638.By 1669 there were about 20 families living in the fertile Massaco valley town named after Symondsbury, the town in England from where many of them had come. They were Puritans and felt the need to build a meeting house to serve their religious and social needs and to serve as a meeting place in which to conduct their democratic form of self-government. The town voted in 1671 to build a meeting house, but it took twelve years until 1683 to accomplish this task. The male voters changed their minds many times over the choice of location. The long-standing need to establish a church with an ordained and settled minister to shepherd their souls was finally met in 1697. Twenty year old Dudley Woodbridge agreed to accept the call to minister to the good people in Simsbury. He remained at his task until he died at a young age. His kinsman, Timothy Woodbridge, took over his pastorate and also married his widow, this being the most practical and sensible thing to do! Thus began the remarkable and intriguing history of this Congregational church in the remote wilderness of north central Connecticut Colony. Beset by Indians on occasion and by hardship and poverty these people persevered armed with determination and an unshakable faith.

The church as a body of faith has had three meeting houses. The First Meeting house was built in 1683 and served until 1739. The town argued for fifteen years over the location and cost of the Second one, and it took a vote of the General Assembly of the colony to settle the issue. It was to be built on Drake's hill - also the location of the Third Meeting house still in use today. In the midst of the meeting house controversies in 1736 it was also voted by the colonial government to split the town into four parishes. The once-large territory of Simsbury was separated into Wintonbury (part of Bloomfield), Salmon Brook (Granby), Turkey Hills (East Granby) and the First Society (Simsbury).

The Second Meeting house, built in 1740, was first used for worship in an unfinished condition in 1743. It took until the occasion of the ordination in 1777 of the third well-known minister, Mr. Samuel Stebbins, to add clapboards, shingles and window and door frames. By 1806 the Rev. Stebbins, who had been here during a time of surprisingly few controversies, decided to retire from active ministry in this congregation. He served as a substitute in local churches and as chaplain at Newgate Prison in Turkey Hills.

Sam Stebbins was a colorful and shrewd man known locally for his ability to turn a profit on his farm and in business ventures as well as for his knowledge of human nature and great wit. One of the most famous of the "Stebbins Stories" is this one about Thomas Jefferson, with whom Mr. Stebbins did not agree. When Jefferson was elected President in 1800 Mr. Stebbins thought it a great misfortune and omitted the usual prayer for the President. When remonstrated by one of his

parishioners he replied the following Sunday with: "Oh, Lord, bless our President and endue him with wisdom and common sense, for thou knowest how much he is in need of both."

In 1809 Mr. Allen McLean, whose influence and name is still to be seen in Simsbury, was ordained minister at First Church. When it was decided in 1830 that the old meeting house was serviceable but insufficiently attractive and that a new one was needed Mr. McLean oversaw the whole building process. The 1740 meeting house was taken down and the new one became a reality in six months with no arguing and no accidents. Mr. McLean made sure that the church raising and the meal that accompanied it were influenced only by the drinking of cold water. Mr. McLean served a long and influential pastorate - fifty years - until his death in 1861. He was best known for his advocacy of temperance, religious revivals, education and the family dynasty he left.

The inside of the 1830 meeting house has seen many redecorations and revisions. One of the most controversial redecorations occurred In 1883 when it "suffered" the application of stained glass windows and Italian frescoes on the ceiling. Many parishioners felt this was inappropriate in a New England congregational church. In any event an explosion in 1892 at the Ensign Bickford Company across the street took care of the windows. The explosion broke many of the windows and they had to be replaced. The church was also faced with redecoration to prepare for its 200th Anniversary in 1897. The offensive frescoes were painted over and the windows replaced with the more acceptable plain glass. During this time the minister was Mr. Charles Stowe, son of renowned author Harriet Beecher Stowe. He served from 1891 - 1899.

One of the stained glass productions was a special Memorial Window dedicated to our first four well-known ministers - the four mentioned above: The two Woodbridges, Stebbins and McLean. It was installed in the wall behind the altar. It was removed unharmed in 1892 and then installed in a chapel built in 1895. There it remained until the catastrophic fire in 1965 which caused the demolition of the 1925 north wing and the old chapel as well as extensive damage to the original 1830 meeting house. As fate would have it the memorial window was undamaged and was later sold to a private individual. As part of the preparation for the 300th anniversary in 1997 the beautifully wrought window was returned to First Church. It has been restored and reinstalled in the latest addition built in 1998 dedicated to Mr. Robert Naylor who served here from 1987 until 2001.

The 1830 meeting house was restored after the fire of 1965 and in 1985 a new addition to the church was dedicated to Mr. Lyman Potter who served this church from 1963 until 1986 during that challenging era. An aerial view of the church now shows the 1830 meeting house, the 1985 Potter Wing to the south and west, and the 1998 Naylor Wing to the north and west. This church, both the body of faith and the physical plant, have undergone many changes during 300+ years but remains true to its call to serve the Lord.

Updated in January 2003

For your information and reading a history of First Church of Christ at Massaco,

Simsbury, Connecticut **"To Sette Ourselves in Gospel Order"** was published in 2002 by Minister Emeritus Lyman G. Potter.

Minister Emeritus
Lyman G. Potter

For copies of this complete and up to date history contact the church office at 860-651-3593 or by email at first.church@1stchurchsimsbury.org.
Cost is $20 (plus shipping if applicable).

Our 3 Centuries of History
A Short History of First Church of Christ in Simsbury, Connecticut

By
Donna M. Hopkins,
Church Historian

Simsbury is one of the oldest towns in Connecticut, its first settlers arrived in 1638.By 1669 there were about 20 families living in the fertile Massaco valley town named after Symondsbury, the town in England from where many of them had come. They were Puritans and felt the need to build a meeting house to serve their religious and social needs and to serve as a meeting place in which to conduct their democratic form of self-government. The town voted in 1671 to build a meeting house, but it took twelve years until 1683 to accomplish this task. The male voters changed their minds many times over the choice of location. The long-standing need to establish a church with an ordained and settled minister to shepherd their souls was finally met in 1697. Twenty year old Dudley Woodbridge agreed to accept the call to minister to the good people in Simsbury. He remained at his task until he died at a young age. His kinsman, Timothy Woodbridge, took over his pastorate and also married his widow, this being the most practical and sensible thing to do! Thus began the remarkable and intriguing history of this Congregational church in the remote wilderness of north central Connecticut Colony. Beset by Indians on occasion and by hardship and poverty these people persevered armed with determination and an unshakable faith.

The church as a body of faith has had three meeting houses. The First Meeting house was built in 1683 and served until 1739. The town argued for fifteen years over the location and cost of the Second one, and it took a vote of the General Assembly of the colony to settle the issue. It was to be built on Drake's hill - also the location of the Third Meeting house still in use today. In the midst of the meeting house controversies in 1736 it was also voted by the colonial government to split the town into four parishes. The once-large territory of Simsbury was separated into Wintonbury (part of Bloomfield), Salmon Brook (Granby), Turkey Hills (East Granby) and the First Society (Simsbury).

The Second Meeting house, built in 1740, was first used for worship in an unfinished condition in 1743. It took until the occasion of the ordination in 1777 of the third well-known minister, Mr. Samuel Stebbins, to add clapboards, shingles and window and door frames. By 1806 the Rev. Stebbins, who had been here during a time of surprisingly few controversies, decided to retire from active ministry in this congregation. He served as a substitute in local churches and as chaplain at Newgate Prison in Turkey Hills.

Sam Stebbins was a colorful and shrewd man known locally for his ability to turn a profit on his farm and in business ventures as well as for his knowledge of human nature and great wit. One of the most famous of the "Stebbins Stories" is this one about Thomas Jefferson, with whom Mr. Stebbins did not agree. When Jefferson was elected President in 1800 Mr. Stebbins thought it a great misfortune and omitted the usual prayer for the President. When remonstrated by one of his parishioners he replied the following Sunday with: "Oh, Lord, bless our President and endue him with wisdom and common sense, for thou knowest how much he is in need of both."

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Minister Emeritus
Lyman G. Potter
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First Church Deaths

Name	Date of Death	Source
Case, Everett	April 29, 1851, age 35	Mc 251
Case, Faithy *, widow	Feb. 11, 1850, age 75	Mc 245
Case, Wife of Friend	May 10, 1839, age 55	Mc 205
Case, Friend	June 24, 1840, age 58	Mc 207
Case, Friend B. *	Dec. 5, 1841, age 30	Mc 210
Case, George Washington*, son Samuel	June 28, 1855, age 9	Mc 287
Case, wife of Giles	Decem. 26, 1781	ST 30
Case, child of Giles	1794	ST 34
Case, Wife of Grandison	1814, age 30	Mc 152
Case, Hannah, widow	Feb. 10, 1787, aged	ST 32
Case, Harlan Page*, son of Samuel	June 24, 1855, age 2	Mc 287
Case, Henry Errisson	April 16, 1890, aged 40	FC 36, FC 153
Case, Hepribah	July 15, 1833, age 57	Mc 197
Case, Horatio	July 2, 1853, age 76	Mc 285
Case, Horatio N. *	Sept. 12, 1829, age 29	Mc 189
Case, Isac	April 20, 1813, aged man	Mc 141
Case, infant child of Jacob	June 8, 1825	Mc 175
Case, Jane	Dec. 4, 1828, age 18	Mc 188
Case, Jason	July 2, 1829, age 35	Mc 189
Case, child of Jedah	1797	ST 35
Case, Wife of Jedediah, jun. *	May 6, 1815	Mc 155
Case, Jedediah, 3rd *	April 26, 1815, age 22	Mc 154
Case, Jedediah	Jan. 11, 1818, age 84	Mc 163
Case, Jedediah	April 29, 1828, age 69	Mc 186
Case, Dea. Jesse *	Feb. 11, 1842, age 74	Mc 211
Case, Joanna, widow	Dec. 20, 1812, age 72	Mc 141
Case, Capt. Job	May 6, 1798	ST 35
Case, Job	Dec. 17, 1899, age 94	FC 34, FC 202
Case, Jona.	June 1787, aged	ST 32
Case, Capt. Jona.	May 17, 1805, aged 82	ST 39
Case, Jona.	Octr. 8, 1805	ST 39
Case, Dea. Joseph	Mar. 13, 1782	ST 30
Case, Julia *	Nov. 24, 1839, age 36	Mc 206
Case, Julia, Wife of Bidwell	Nov. 23, 1851, age 36	Mc 253
Case, Julia S.	March 26, 1923, aged 83	FC 44-5, FC 308

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First Ecclesiastical Society Membership

Name	Membership Date	Source
Andrus, Harlan P.	May 27, 1865	FE 67
Andrus, Henry	March 16, 1878	FE 90
Bacon, Philip	June 21, 1858	FE 5
Barnard, Judah P.	Dec. 10, 1849	FE 5
Barber, Lucius I.	Feb. 5, 1849	FE 5
Bartlett, Joseph L.	June 21, 1858	FE 51
Barton, E. A.	July 19, 1907	FE 170
Bennett, Lewis J.	March 16, 1878	FE 90
Bradley, Edward H.	Dec. 18, 1876	FE 87
Bradley, Stiles A.	Feb. 5, 1849	FE 5
Bridge, Josiah	Dec. 12, 1904	FE 164
Brown, L. G.	Dec. 3, 1877	FE 89
Buel, Orestes	Sept. 25, 1865	FE 70
Buell, O. L.	Jan. 15, 1881	FE 96
Buell, Peter O.	Feb. 5, 1849	FE 5
Carr, George	June 21, 1858	FE 5
Case, Alonzo G.	June 21, 1858	FE 51
Case, Augustus R.	Feb. 18, 1835	FE 5
Case, Burton G.	Dec. 5, 1898	FE 145
Case, Campbell P.	Dec. 18, 1876	FE 87
Case, Friend B	Feb. 18, 1835	FE 5
Case, Louis L.	Dec. 5, 1890	FE 130
Case, Norris	Dec. 1845	FE 5
Case, Samuel S.	Dec. 1845	FE 5
Case, Thomas R.	June 21, 1858	FE 51
Case, W. W.	Dec. 5, 1887	FE 116
Chapman, Aaron S.	June 21, 1858	FE 51
Chase, Erwin	Dec. 18, 1876	FE 87
Cornish, George	Feb. 5, 1849	FE 5
Cushing, W. L.	Dec. 10, 1906	FE 168
Curtiss, Ebenezer G.	June 21, 1858	FE 51

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First Church Deaths

Name	Date of Death	Source
Case, infant child of Jacob	June 8, 1825	Mc 175
Case, daughter of Jacob B.	Nov. 12, 1846, age 2	Mc 229
Case, daughter of Jesse	Jan. 4, 1834, age 24	Mc 198
Case, child of Job	July 6, 1830, age 1	Mc 192
Case, child of Judah	Sept. 30, 1801	ST 37
Case, infant child of Moses	Mar. 1799	ST 36
Case, child of Moses	April 2, 1813	Mc 141
Case, child of Moses J.	Mar. 9, 1844, age 6	Mc 219
Case, child of Nathan	1814	Mc 152
Case, child of Norris	Aug. 13, 1847, age 1	Mc 239
Case, infant child of Roger	June 23, 1783	ST 31
Case, infant child of Samuel	Jan. 26, 1839	Mc 205
Case, child of Mrs. Solomon	Oct. 28, 1782, still born	ST 30
Case, child of Solomon	April 3, 1817, age 17	Mc 161
Case, widow, mother of Roger	DeceM. 15, 1784, aged	ST 31
Case, widow, found dead in her bed	May 5, 1803, aged	ST 38
Case, widow	Feb. 17, 1826, age 89	Mc 179
Case, Capt. Aaron	Dec. 23, 1822, aged 61	Mc 172
Case, widow of Aaron	Feb. 27, 1842, age 78	Mc 211
Case, Abel *	Dec. 18, 1844, age 87	Mc 221
Case, Mrs. Abel	Nov. 1, 1843, age 77	Mc 217
Case, Wife of Abel, Jr.	Nov. 12, 1818, age 38	Mc 164
Case, Abigail, widow	Decem. 3, 1778, aged	ST 29
Case, Abigail wife of Capt. Jon'th, Jun.	Aug. 28, 1779	ST 30
Case, Abigail, widow	Dec. 8, 1833, age 80	Mc 197
Case, Abigail, widow	Jan 29, 1844, age 76	Mc 218
Case, Abigail G., wife of Job	August 1877	FC 30
Case, Adaline Elfrida	July 25, 1918	FC 34, FC 284
Case, Alonzo G. (Deacon)	May 5, 1902, aged 68	FC 24, FC 214-5
Case, Wife of Dea'n Amasa	Octr. 1803	ST 39
Case, Wife of Amasa	August 20, 1809	Mc 136
Case, Wife of Amasa	March 11, 1816, age 50	Mc 159
Case, Wife of Amasa	Jan. 12, 1823, age 86	Mc 172
Case, Amasa	Aug. 9, 1824, age 93	Mc 173
Case, Amasa	June 25, 1834, age 81	Mc 198

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14 Files

7 Original

First Church Births and Baptisms

Name	Parents	Birthdate	Baptism Date	Source
Case, Sarah	Friend Case			Mc 262
Case, Seth & family			May 30, 1792	ST 25
Case, Seth	Aurora Case			Mc 263
Case, Timothy	Richard Case	March 16, 1707/8	Apr. 16, 1708	FC 84, WO 25
Case, Titus	George Case		Sept. 1800	ST 27
Case, Vilet	Moses Case		July 30, 1786	ST 23
Case, Violette	Benajah Case, Junr.		Jan. 16, 1791	ST 25
Case, Wealthy	Asa Case & Sarah his wife		Jan. 26, 1783	ST 20
Case, William	Mrs. Samuel Case			Mc 267
Casse, Hannah	Samuel Case	January 30, 1698/9	Feb. 5, 1698/9	FC 78, WO 18
Clark, son	John & wife (Willcockson) Clark		June 19, 1709	FC 86, WO 27
Clark, Solomon	John Clark		July 9, 1699	FC 78
Clarke, Martha	John Clarke		Nov. 21, 1697	FC 76, WO 14
Cleveland, Harris	Johnson Cleveland & Lydia his wife		Oct. 19, 1796	ST 26
Coal, Mary	Saml. Coal, of Farmingtown		October 12, 1701	FC 81, WO 21
Collyer, Elizabeth	John Collyer and his wife Elizabeth (Humphr	April 14, 1706	Apr. 28, 1706	FC 82, WO 22
Cornish, Amanda	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Asa	Elisha Cornish Jur & Sarah his wife			ST 16
Cornish, Benjamin	James Cornish & his wife Elizabeth (Thrall)	March 28, 1700/1	Mar. 30, 1700/1	FC 80, W 20
Cornish, Dwight	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Elam	Elisha Cornish		April 26, 1789	ST 24
Cornish, Elam	Elisha Cornish, jun.			Mc 262
Corniah, Edna Elvira	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Emerson Seymour	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Emma	Dea. George Cornish			Mc 262
Cornish, George	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Giles	Elisha Cornish & his Wife		June 4, 1780	ST 19
Cornish, Jane	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, John	Georghe Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Justise Seymour	George Cornish		July 1, 1787	ST 23
Cornish, Lavinia	Dea. George Cornish			Mc 262
Cornish, Leverette	George Cornish			Mc 265
Cornish, Lucy	George Cornish & Anna his wife		June 6, 1784	ST 22
Cornish, Melissa	Dea. George Cornish			Mc 262
Cornish, Nathan	Elisha Cornish, jun.			Mc 262

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First Church Membership

Name	Membership Date	Prior Church	Source
			MAN 17
	1824		FC 27, Mc 52, MAN 16
Case, Phebe, wife of Amaziah	Oct. 5, 1817	formerly in covenant	FC 62
Case (Humphrey), Philander, wife of	March 31, 1929		FC 13, ST 9
Case, Phyllis	July 16, 1786		ST 14
Case, Polly, wife of Bartholomew	Nov. 7, 1790		FC 28, Mc 56, MAN 17
Case, Polly, wife of Luey	1832		FC 29, Mc 59
Case (Stow), Polly	1834		FC 39
Case, Priscilla, wife of Dr. Augustus R. Case	May 1878		FC 28, Mc 57, MAN 18
Case, Priscilla, Mrs.	Jan, 1, 1832		WO 17
Case (Loomis), Rhoda	June 6, 1703		ST 7
Case, Richard	prior to Dec. 1777		FC 31, Mc 64
Case, Roger	1839		MAN 20
Case, Rollin	1844		FC 27, Mc 52
Case, Rollin	Oct. 5, 1817	Canton - Church of Christ	FC 28, Mc 56, MAN 18
Case, Roxanna, wife of Jedediah	Jan. 1, 1832		FC 54
Case, Ruth, wife of Elam	Sept. 15, 1918		FC 25, Mc 44
Case, Ruth Estelle	March 3, 1811		MAN 18
Case, Sally, wife of Jacob	1832		MAN 17
Case, Salmon D.	1824		FC 5
Case (Marks), Saloma, wife of Grandison	prior to Nov. 10, 1697		FC 31, Mc 64
Case, Samuel	1839		FC 34
Case, Mrs. Samuel	May 2, 1858		ST 6
Case, Samuel Stiles	prior to Dec. 1777		ST 6
Case, Sarah, wife of Jesse	prior to Dec. 1777		FC 25, Mc 47
Case, Sarah, wife of Jos., Jun.	May 1, 1814		FC 32, Mc 64
Case, Sarah, wife of Friend	1839		MAN 20
Case, Sarah	1844		FC 28, Mc 55, MAN 17
Case (Green), Sarah	1824		FC 13, ST 9
Case (Howe), Sarah A.	March 1792		FC 29
Case, Seth, Capt. And wife	1832		Mc 35
Case, Salmon D.	prior to 1777		ST 15
Case, Dea. Solomon & wife	Nov. 1798		FC 32, Mc 66
Case, Solomon and wife▲	Sept. 2, 1849		FC 33
Case, Tamma	March 1, 1857		FC 13, ST 10
Case, Thomas R.	1805		
Case, Wealthy			

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First Church Deaths

Name	Date of Death	Source
Case, Amasa	June 10, 1847, age 67	Mc 235
Case, Anna, widow	April 14, 1817, age 78	Mc 161
Case, Mrs. Anna Clark	Jan. 29, 1915	FC 48-9
Case, Apollos	Jan. 17, 1827, age 58	Mc 182
Case, Wife of Capt. Ariel	Feb. 30, 1816	Mc 159
Case, Ariel *	Sept. 19, 1827, age 62	Mc 184
Case, Wife of Asa	Sept. 13, 1829, age 73	Mc 189
Case, Asa	March 22, 1830, age 77	Mc 191
Case, Asenath *	Jan. 21, 1845, age 67	Mc 222
Case, Augustus	Mar. 17, 1855, age 82	Mc 287
Case, Bartholomew, infant of	April 21, 1815	Mc 154
Case, Wife of Benajah *	Sept. 11, 1831, age 62	Mc 193
Case, Bernice	Oct. 26, 1924	FC 52-3
Case, Bertha Latimer	Dec. 14, 1902, aged 26	FC 214-5
Case, Bertha Rourke	Feb. 3, 1920	FC 52-3, 296
Case, Betsey *	June 18, 1815, age 15	Mc 156
Case, Buckland	May 10, 1845, age 45	Mc 223
Case, Burton Grove	September 24, 1918	FC 44-5, 284
Case, Caleb	Jan. 1814, aged	Mc 151
Case, Campbell	May 18, 1929	FC 40-1
Case, Mrs. Caroline *	August 14, 1851, age 74	Mc 252
Case, Mrs. Celia	March 27, 1853, age 82	Mc 285
Case, Cevilla	July 1, 1886, aged 89	FC 28
Case, Wife of Capt. Charles, Jun'r.	1796	ST 35
Case, Chloe	May 15, 1815, aged woman	Mc 156
Case, Christiana, widow	June 1816	Mc 160
Case, Mrs. Cornelia	Aug. 26, 1900	FC 33, 205-6
Case, Corridon *	Sept. 11, 1850, age 27	Mc 247
Case, Elijah	March 27, 1885	FC 34, FC 137
Case. Elisabeth, widow	Jan. 12, 1784	ST 31
Case, Elisha	Jan. 15, 1832, age 71	Mc 195
Case, Elizabeth, widow	March 6, 1816, age 76	Mc 159
Case, Emeline, daughter of Jacob	Jan. 21, 1811, age 4	Mc 138
Case, Esther	May 11, 1815, age 21	Mc 156

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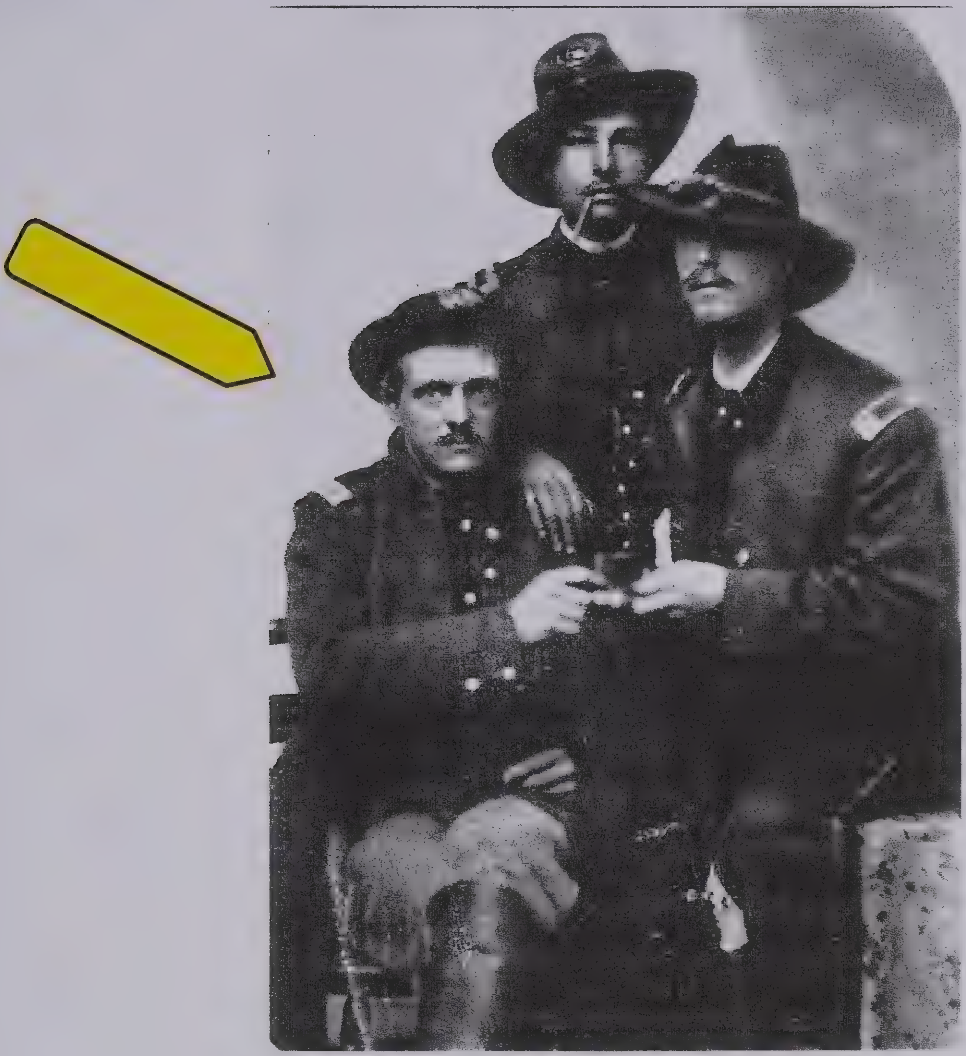

Left: Alonzo Grove Case
Photo Source: Connecticut Yankees at Antietam. Pg 38
By John Banks

Born: June 7. 1834
Simsbury, CT
Parents: Job and Abigail Griswold Phelps Case

Married: October 19. 1857
Simsbury, CT
Wife: Julia S. Chaffee

Military Service: Civil War 1862—1865
CT 16 Volunteer Infantry

Captured & Prisoner of War: 186~~3~~4—1865

Died: May 5, 1902, Simsbury, CT
Buried: Hopmeadow Cemetery

Brothers:
Oliver Cromwell Case & Ariel Job Case

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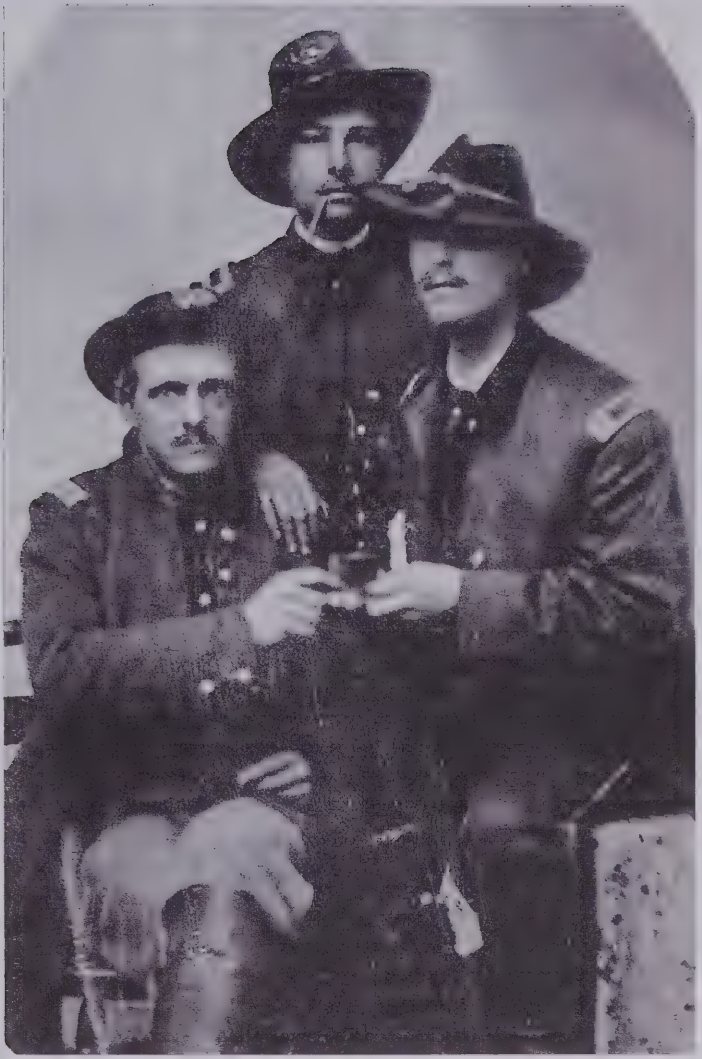

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Photo Source: Connecticut Yankees at Antietam, Pg 38
By John Banks

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Parents: Job and Abigail Griswold Phelps Case

Married: October 19. 1857
Simsbury, CT
Wife: Julia S. Chaffee

Military Service: Civil War 1862—1865
CT 16 Volunteer Infantry

Captured & Prisoner of War: 1863—1865

Died: May 5, 1902, Simsbury, CT
Buried: Hopmeadow Cemetery

Brothers:
Oliver Cromwell Case & Ariel Job Case

1880 United States Federal Census

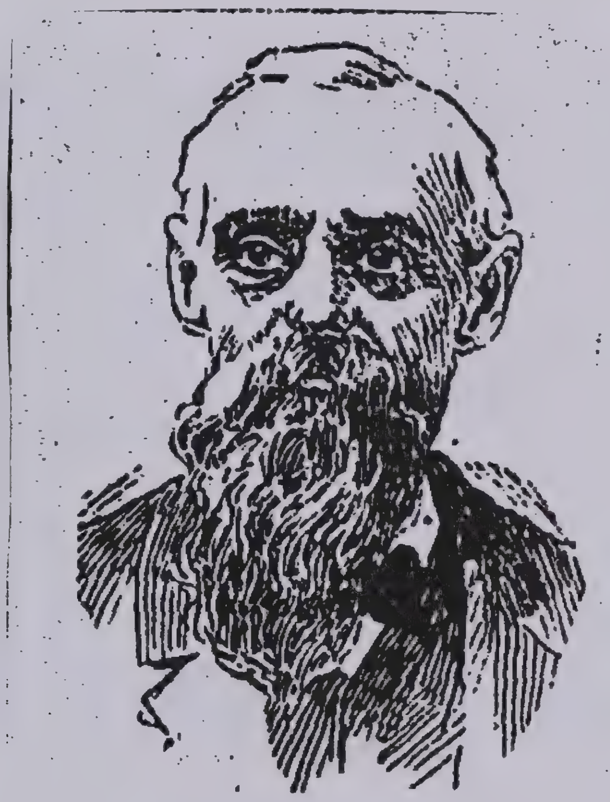
Name:	**Alonzo G. Case**
Home in 1880:	Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut
Age:	46
Estimated birth year:	abt 1834
Birthplace:	Connecticut
Relation to Head of Household:	Self *(Head)*
Spouse's name:	Julia S.
Father's Name:	Job
Father's birthplace:	Connecticut
Mother's birthplace:	Connecticut
Neighbors:	View others on page
Occupation:	Farmer
Marital Status:	Married
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Cannot read/write:	Subscribe now to see this information.
Blind:	
Deaf and dumb:	
Otherwise disabled:	
Idiotic or insane:	

Household Members:

Name	Age
Alonzo G. Case	46
Julia S. Case	40
Alfred T. Case	14
Oliver C. Case	12
Charles P. Case	9
Burton G. Case	7
Julia A. Case	5
_ Case	3M
Job Case	74
Julia Chaffee	70

Alonzo Grove Case

Lieutenant Sixteenth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
Born: June 7, 1834 Simsbury, CT
Civil War Prisoner: April 20, 1864
~~First in Andersonville~~ and then other prisons
Died: May 5, 1902 Simsbury, CT
At age 67 years
Below image printed with obituary in the Hartford Courant on May 6, 1902



Lieutenant Alonzo G. Case.

The obituary stated, “Mr. Case was born at the old
homestead on Terry’s Plains, Simsbury....”
Also it stated, “He … was wounded in battle and his
health was shattered in … prison.”
… “[H]e engaged in farming in Simsbury and was one of the
well known tobacco growers and stock raisers of the town.”
[He] married Julia Salome Chaffee of Simsbury on October 19, 1859
He was a leader in the community and an Elder in his church

CASE
CHA

Obituary

Alonzo Grove Case

Alonzo Grove Case died yesterday morning at his home in Simsbury, after a long illness, aged 67 years. He was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in the Sixteenth Regiment, C. V., was wounded in battle and his health was shattered in Andersonville prison. He was a lineal descendant of John Case, in the seventh generation, who first settled in Windsor and in 1669 sold his house and was one of the settlers of Weatogue. Mr. Case was born at the old homestead on Terry's Plains, Simsbury June 7, 1834. He was educated in schools of the town and at the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield. He enlisted in the army in July, 1862, and was in many engagements and in prison. He was promoted to be Lieutenant. On his return from the war he was one of the well know tobacco growers and stock raisers of the town. Mr. Case married October 19, 1859, Julia Salome Chaffee of Simsbury, and the following children are living: Mrs. Benjamin H. Shelby, Alfred Terry Case, Oliver Phelps Case, Mrs. Albert H. Crosby of this city, Charles Pitman Case and Burton Grove Case. Mr. Case was always a republican, represented Simsbury in the Legislature, in 1867, and has held many town offices of importance. He was a member of St. Marks Lodge, A. F. and A. M. and of Joseph Toy Post, G. A. R. of Simsbury and of the Congregational Church of that town of which he was deacon. The funeral will be attended at his late home tomorrow at 1 o'clock and at the Congregational Church at 2:30 o'clock.

The Hartford Courant (1887-1922) May 6, 1902
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Hartford Courant (1764-1922)

Received from Simsbury Historical Society February 28, 2015

OBITUARY
The Hartford Courant (1887-1922); May 6, 1902;
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pg. 7

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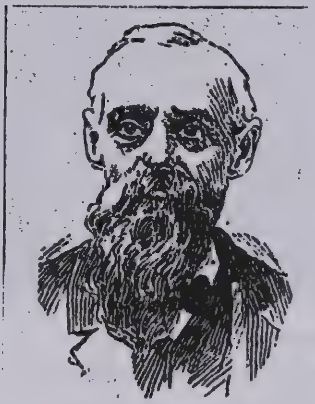

Lieutenant Alonzo G. Case.

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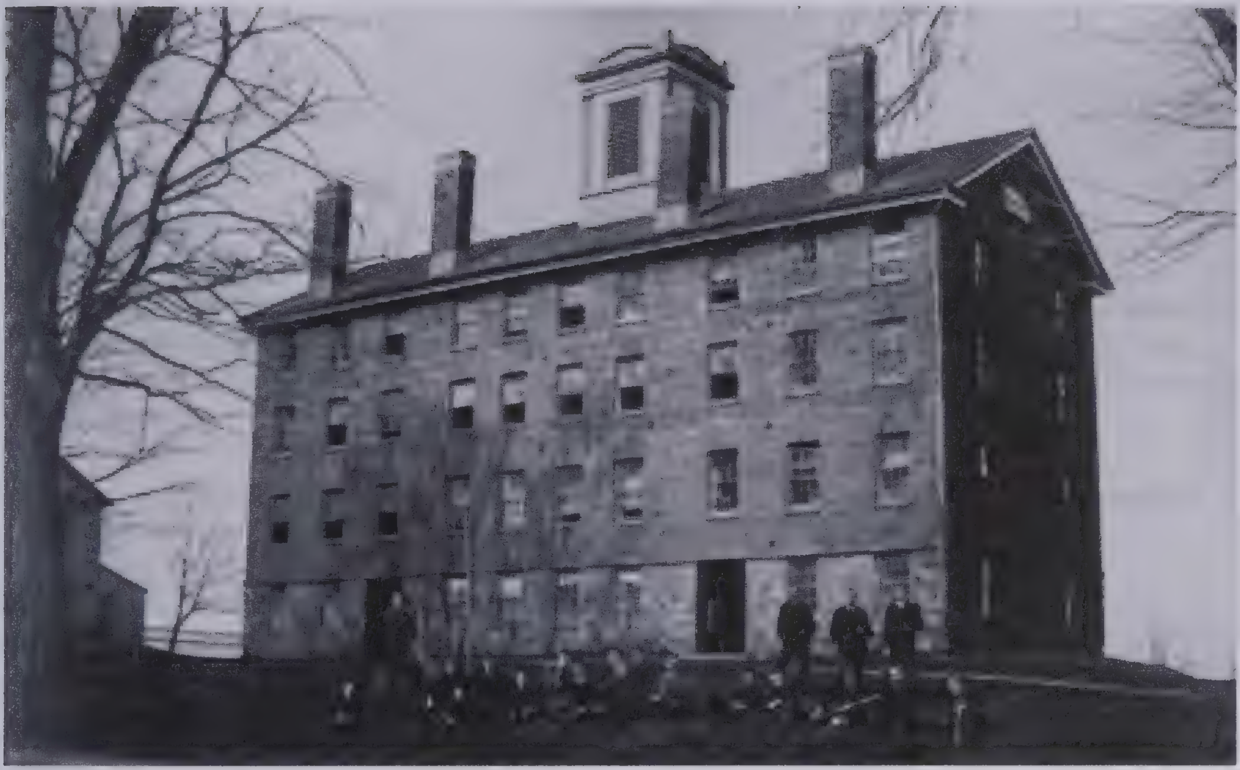

Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield, CT
According to Alonzo Case's obituary he attended CLI
Photograph taken in late 1800s

The school's first building, later known as the Old South Building, was erected and the school opened under the title of Connecticut Baptist Literary Institute in 1829. The early mission of the school was to educate young men for the ministry. Despite its founding links to the Baptist Church, the institute quickly moved towards a non-denominational model and in 1833 was renamed Connecticut Literary Institute, locally known as CLI. The institute was the only high school in town and local government funding helped to pay for each student's tuition.

Suffield, CT is about 15 miles from Simsbury, CT

Richard Converse
426 Garnet Ct.
Fort Mill, SC 29708

March 2, 2015

Museum Curator, Lester Smith
Suffield Historic Society
1600 North St.
Suffield, CT 06078

I recently received the obituary for my third cousin, Alonzo Grove Case, dated May 6, 1902. It stated he had attended Connecticut Literary Institute located in your town. He was 67 when he passed. So he may have attended in the mid-1800s. He joined the 16 th CT Vol Infantry in 1862 at 27 years old during the Civil War.

I am interested what level of education he would have received at CLI, Would there be any records of him attending and if so what subjects did he take. Anything you can add to his story would be appreciated.

Thank you in advance,

Richard Converse
Email: BRConverse@comporium.net

Richard Converse
426 [illegible] St
[illegible], [illegible] 29708

March 2, [illegible]

M[illegible]
Su[illegible],
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

OBITUARY
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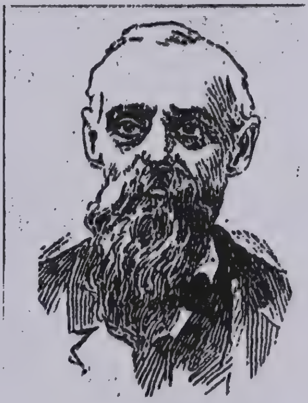

Lieutenant Alonzo G. Case.

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☑Photograph Category A

☐Postcard Subject Case, Alonzo Grove (1834 - 1902)

Date late 1800's Photographer

Size Image 5 1/4 x 3 3/4"

Description Portrait and signature

Donor/source Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Tousignant

Acquisition # 93.42 Date 1993

㉑

June 30, 2015

Dear Charlotte Bacon:

thank you for meeting with me and my wife at the Historical Society and for inviting us to your house. We had a wonderful time meeting you and spending time at your home.

Enclosed are copies about Alonzo Case copied at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Some may be faded or hard to read but they are 150 years old.

I also copied a letter that Alonzo's brother Ariel J. Case wrote about sending him clothing while he was in prison at Charleston, S.C. in 1864.

I look forward to receiving a copy of Alonzo's photograph that you have there at home.

It was my honor and pleasure to meet you. thank you for taking time for us.

Sincerely,

Richard Converse
426 Garnet Ct.
Fort Mill, SC 29708

Simsbury, CT

By REV. JOHN McLEAN
Published in the Connecticut Quarterly
April, May and June, 1895

Submitted by: Ray Brown

And sweet homes nestle in these dales,
And perch along these wooded swells,
And, blest beyond Arcadian vales,
They hear the sound of Sabbath bells!
Here dwells no perfect man sublime,
No woman winged before her time
But with the faults, and follies of the race,
Old home-bred virtues hold their not unhonored place."

Why Simsbury? There is much in a name notwithstanding Shakespearean philosophy. New York, Chicago, Boston. Could they have become great cities had they been blanketed with the name Simsbury? Some authentic historical reason for exchanging the musical Indian name Massaco for colorless Simsbury would make it more endurable, but the search-light of the historian reveals but conflicting guesses. The name of a place, however, with which we have no acquaintance, is but an abstraction. Knowing it, it becomes concrete, and the frame-work and background of a series of pictures and impressions. Though the name, Simsbury, be without suggestiveness to the strange ear, to those who have watched the seasons come and go, from her quiet homes, and to the passer-by, whose soul is touched by the beautiful, this name will turn many exquisite pages, in memory's album.

Simsbury is a mine of that wealth of which the man may possess most who has greatest capacity to receive. The great charm of the place is variety. It has some attractive features for almost every taste. Those who love mountain scenery may wander along the granite hills on the west or the trap ledges on the east. They may climb the " Pinnacle, " and look down on pretty Lake " Bijou," lying like a pearl in emerald setting, or to the cedar-fringed summit of Mt. Philip, towering nearly a thousand feet above the river-ribboned meadows of Massaco. From this far famed " royal view" may be traced the old drift-" kames" by the deep green of the pines which clothe their sterile summits. Far to the north and west, Tom, Holyoke, and distant Greylock salute you through the purple haze. In the west arises that wild tumult of hills, which conceal in their bosom the grand old towns of Litchfield and Norfolk.

If the more quiet scenery of a river valley affords greater pleasure - search out and feast upon the unsung beauties of the Farmington, a stream which would have ravished the

soul of Wordsworth or David Gray. For miles the road follows the river where the waters flash to the eye their fresco of overarching elms, with background of blue sky and fleecy cloud, and where river-bank on the one hand and hedge-row on the other, seem to compete, in wild luxuriance of flowers, grasses, and tangles of clematis and woodbine. Northward the stream winds through welltilled meadows, where the projecting coves are almost concealed beneath a thin garment of peltate leaves, and starry lilies. At length, turning sharply eastward its tortured waters plunge wildly over the rocks of the mountain pass.

For some, the forests have peculiar charm. There are many drives through the wooded belt, running north by south nearly through the center of the township. These give cool, refreshing shelter which the fierce heat of the summer sun can scarcely penetrate, where toiling, weary brutes, and men who are not brutes, breathe gratitude. Masses of ferns, and banks of soft cool moss tempt the passer-by to recline in dreamy reverie and listen to the monotone of the wind, playing upon its mighty sylvan organ.

Simsbury offers rich enjoyment to any student who delights in reading the long story of creation,-for nowhere on the face of the earth can more formations, distinct in character, be found within the limit of a few hours' walk. Here granite, trap, sandstone and the erratic rocks chant their tragic epics for those who " have ears to hear." Not less of interest will here be found for the botanist. From showery April, when that sweet gift of the glacier smiles its greeting from beneath the leaves,- to chill November, when the deep fringed gentian seems to chide the trees for putting off their summer robes so soon, broad flower-besprinkled meadows, deep orchidhiding woods, hedge-row, marsh, mountain cliff and glen will reward the patient seeker after Flora's gems.

Some, believing that " the proper study of mankind is man," would search the fading pages of history. No tragic scene of the world's great drama has been enacted here. The history of Simsbury is the story of a sturdy, selfdependent, God-fearing, home-loving people, who spared neither blood, nor fortune when the " drum beat" sounded to that great struggle for independence, or that more terrible death grapple with the dark demon of sin, whose voice of wild satiric laughter had ever mingled its discords with our " anthems of the free." Armed with such preparation as the " destrict school " and village lyccum afforded, her "Miltons" and "village Hamptons" have not all remained "mute and inglorious." Simsbury has given to the National Army, able officers; to Congress, wise statesmen; to the Executive, a Comptroller, a Secretary of the Treasury, and a distinguished foreign minister; to our Colleges, two President; to the Episcopal Church, a Bishop; to Missouri, a Governor; to New Fork City, merchant princes, and to the professions prominent members.

Simsbury was the second town of the Tunxis Valley to invite the English settler. In 1643, John Griffin and Michael Humphrey came from Windsor and commenced the manufacture of tar. A certain Indian, Manahannoose, " did wittingly kindle a fire" which proved disastrous to their enterprise. The Court decreed, that " in default of ad of Wordsworth or Dana's song. He traces the river where its [illegible] aters flash to the eye their hues of everchanging green, with background of sky and fleecy cloud, and where river bank on the one hand and hedge-row on the other, een, are wrapt in rich luxuriance of flowers, grasses, and tangles of creepers and [illegible]. Northward the stream winds through verdant meadows, where its [illegible] curves are almost concealed from sight by patches of [illegible] and [illegible] lilies. At length, curving sharply eastward, its pent-up waters plunge into the [illegible]

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[illegible] ferns will here be found for the botanist. Ferns, too, are [illegible]. And [illegible] the glacier smiles its greeting from beneath the leaves—to cheer us when the deep fringed gentian seems to chide the trees for putting off their summer robes—, [illegible] broad flowers displaying their [illegible] deep orchids, [illegible] meadow, [illegible] eld and garden" reward the patient seeker after flower-gems.

me, believe me that "the proudest story of this world is ours" would search the [illegible] es of history. No tragic scene of the world's great drama has been enacted here. The story of Sunbury is the story of a sturdy, independent, God-fearing, hard-working people, who spared neither blood nor treasure when the "drum beat" summoned to that great struggle for independence, or the more terrible death grapple with the dark [illegible] of sin, whose voice of white slaves however never mingled its discord with the [illegible] anthems of the free. Armed with the same preparation as the "district school" and [illegible] have [illegible] "Millers" and "Village Hampdens" [illegible] "inglorious." Sunbury has given to the National Army, a [illegible] of [illegible] gress, one Statesman to the Executive, a Comptroller, a Secretary of the Treasury and a distinguished foreign minister; to its Colleges, two Presidents; to the Episcopal Church, a Bishop; to Missouri, a Governor; to New York City, merchant princes, and [illegible] numerous prominent citizens.

[illegible]

[illegible] s and whence their money came from Windsor and commerce! It [illegible] a certain town in Massachusetts, [illegible] payment of five hundred string of wampum," he should " serve or be shipped in exchange for neagcrs." He seems to have escaped this penalty by giving the injured tar-makers a deed of 'Massaco. The township has several times been divided. East Granby, (where old 'New-ate prison is located), Granby, North Canton and Canton having, in great Dart, been formed from its original territory.

Simsbury is located northwest of Hartford, in the northern part of that valley rent from the broad Connecticut by the convulsions following the Jurassic epoch. Scattered over its area, are numerous small villages, the one known as Simsbury being near the center. These are, with two or three exceptions, arranged along the streets running north and south on either side of the river. North, on the cast side of the river, is located the once thriving village of Tariff ville. Desolating fires, with a series of other mis fortunes, have checked its prosperity. The "long road," of its misfortunes, now seems to have reached its " turning." It is won derfully picturesque in its surroundings, and the scenery attracts maDy to the " Bartlett Tower," located on a mountain near by. From Tariffville southward the drive commands the most charming river and meadow scenery. Where the old Windsor road descends the mountain is a little hamlet known as "Terry's plain." Fair and delectable indeed must have seemed the virgin face of Massaco as seen first from this mountain crest, and one cannot wonder that Griffin and Humphrey (the " Caleb " and " Joshua " sent to spy out the land) resolved to settle here, notwithstanding the "Anakim."

About two miles of road, mostly along the river bank brings us to East Weatogue, a pretty, restful hamlet. The morning sun is late in driving away the mountain shadows, but the wide westward vista lengthens out the day with glowing sunsets. Here the Hartford road winds over the mountain. From the summit of the last steep descent, the song of turbulent waters will fall upon the ear. Would you enjoy one of the daintiest bits of scenery; swing down the deep ravine and follow the laughing cascades through the gloom of the rock-walled canon.

In this village stands the oldest house of the township, known as the "Bacon Place" or "Ft. George." Built in 1717, though somewhat bowed with age, its massive timbers yield but slowly to the ravages of time. Tradition tells of wild scenes here in the old days of warfare. There also is located that fine example of colonial architecture, the " Humphrey Place," at present occupied by the lineal descendants of that Michael Humphrey who with John Griffin first invaded the primeval forests of Massaco.

On the opposite side of the river lies the sister village, West Weatogue, in former days the business center of the place. The " old inhabitant " still boasts of those halcyon times. here was the village store, and the school where John Slater was, by vote of the town, authorized " to teach the youths to read, write, cypher and say the rules of arathmetack," and here another teacher of great local fame taught grammar by machinery. With growth of business in another part of the town, the star of her prosperity set, but only to rise again with increased splendor. Her prophet no longer

chants hi, Jeremiads from her ruins. The " spirit of the renaissance " is sweeping over her, everywhere transforming the unsightly into the beautiful. Old farm houses burst from the chrysalis into towered mansions. An artistic granite fountain,-"in memoriam"of the beloved physician, Dr. White,-ornaments her pretty green. Even the old school house, has put off her simple gown and come out in a brand new suit, with a " Romanesque " flounce.

Separated from Weatogue by the loveliest of drives through the fragrant pines is Bushy Hill. A bushy hill no longer. Her ill-kept farms, where men often failed in the struggle with nature because of the heavy tribute paid " King Alcohol," have come into the possession of the Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, the Messrs Arthur, Norman, and Walter Phelps Dodge, the sons and grandson of the late William E. Dodge of New York; and her hills, commanding a wide circle of exquisite scenery, are being crowned with stately mansions. Bushy hill is honored by the association of distinguished names. In her humble farmhouses were born Anson G. Phelps the successful man of business and philanthropist, and John J. Phelps, the merchant prince. His son the eminent statesman and diplomat, William Walter Phelps, spent here many days of his childhood and youth.

About two miles westward, where the road from the granite mountains enters the valley between twin frowning ledges of intrusive trap, nestles the little village of West Simsbury, or "The harms," a place lying at the threshold of the most charming and unique scenery.

About two miles north of Weatogue is the central village, which takes the township name, Simsbury. It is built along a terrace, between the wooded bluff and the river meadows. Entering from the Bushy hill or Farms road, you will pass the old Mill which still grinds the grists, and takes the toll, as in days of yore. A little down the stream stands the old distillery. It is now many years since barefoot lads and lassies, with tin pails and pennies, descended the winding path, and climbed the stile to get " a mess of emptin's," as yeast was called.

The road describes a half circle at the foot of the hill, where stands the Congregational Church, a building of classic proportions, and of a simple chaste style which harmonized with the age and worship of its time. Admire its exterior. Do not enter until a mistake of a few years since be remedied, and the sober Purl tan meeting-house be dis robed of its gaudy attire. Northward for nearly a mile the street extends, straight as an arrow, broad, sentinelled by magnificent elms and sycamores. The accompany ing views will give hints of its beauty. Aside from the many fine modern houses arc many places of historic interest.

The Amos R. Eno mansion stands on a finely shaded eminence, overlooking the valley. Built by the Hon. Elisha Phelps,--the father of Mrs. Eno, --the recent changes in the building seem rather to emphasize its oldtime dignity and atmosphere of hospitality. Here for nearly a half century, the queenly hostess won the love of high and low; and

the farmer iad of fourscore years ago,-having fought life's battle in the great metropolis, and won not only "great riches," but that "good name" honored and respected by all,-has come here for quiet and rest in his declining years.

Simsbury numbers among her most valuable institutions, " The Free Library," a gift from Mr. Eno. to his birth-place. The building is designed in harmony with its surroundings, and, within and without, is a fine expression of colonial architecture. The library, nourished by a liberal fund, removes from the youth of Simsbury any barrier from culture.

In the center of the village, where was once the church-yard is the Cemetery. For two and a quarter centuries, groups of people, with sad eyes, and aching hearts, have climbed this beautiful hillside, to lay away the tenement of some beloved soul. Whether the earth were covered with snow or violets, in sunshine and storm, the sad burial words have been spoken, but when the trembling voice strikes the brighter strain, " I am the resurrection and the life," the restful beauty of the scene seems to turn the thought from the "city of the dead," to that city whose Builder and Maker is He who giveth and taketh away. The limit of this paper forbids tarrying among the quaint headstones and quainter inscriptions. Passing the little group of stores, the old Ensign homestead stands on the left, with its lilac bushes and cinnamon roses, and nearly opposite the Jeffrey O. Phelps mansion, built in 1771, in colonial days the famous "Phelps Tavern,'". Now take off your hat and make obeisance to the monarch of the street,-King Ulmus. I can never consciously pass under this tree without a feeling of reverence. 1t combines, more than any other I have ever seen, great size, symmetry, grace, impressiveness of strength and character. Beautiful as it is clothed in its summer robe,-it is even more impressive when the lofty arches of its giant arms are thrown against the face of the moon or the clear blue of the winter sky.

The " Dr. Barber house " was built in 1762, and soon came into the possession of Major Elihu Humphrey, an ancestor of its late occupant. When Lexington roused the land, the Major gathered his company on the green before this house,-on the eve before their departure to Boston,-and here the tearful farewells were said to wives and mothers. To the shelter of this roof the wounded warrior was brought to breathe away his ebbing life.

Under the pine-covered bluff,-facing meadow and mountain is the McLean Seminary, a school founded and named in honor of the Rev. Allen McLean, for fifty-two years the beloved pastor of the Congregational Church.

The "Elizur Eno House," located in that continuation of the street called Westover plain, is the oldest but one in the town, built about 1750. It is a fine old structure, reposing under a mammoth elm of great age and beauty. Here at one time were quartered some French officers. A duarrel arising at dinner, one threw the carving knife, which missing his antagonist, buried itself in the casing, where the gash can now be

seen. I have given but a glimpse of this fair valley and its traditions. Would you see more? Study for yourself the tapestry of its meadows, the frescoes of its skies, the pictures on its mountain walls, and the resting-place of its children, with the names engraven there.

From mossy mound and grassy hillock gliding,
With noiseless step we come;
Wishful to learn of good or ill, betiding
The old remembered home;
A band of brothers we, who sleep where weeping willows grow,
Your great grand-fathers, dead and gone, one hundred years ago.

Return to [Connecticut Towns]

001183

SIMSBURY

Genealogical and Historical Research Library

Volume 13 Issue 4 Winter 2006-07

The Simsbury Free Library

The Original Trustees: Part 2

Amos R. Eno appointed ten trustees in 1874 to manage the affairs of the Simsbury Free Library. The composition of the board remained the same for more than twenty-seven years, demonstrating the wisdom of Mr. Eno's selection and the dedication of the men he chose.

Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson, 1826-1906

The Reverend Johnson Logan Tomlinson was descended from Henry and Alice Tomlinson, who emigrated from Derby, Derbyshire, England, to Milford, Connecticut, in 1652. Rev. Tomlinson, a member of the seventh generation, was the son of Eliphalet and Polly (Logan) Tomlinson of New Preston, where his father was a marble dealer.[1] They were distant cousins of Gideon Tomlinson, who was governor of Connecticut (1827-1831) and a U.S. senator (1833-1837).[2]

Rev. Tomlinson was pastor of the Congregational Church in Chester, New Hampshire, during the Civil War years and he was remembered there for his memorial sermon on Lincoln after his assassination. In a history of that town Rev. Tomlinson is described as "a good sermonizer and a picturesque character withal. He was tall of stature, wore his hair long, and carried a carpet bag as he went from place to place. He was sometimes called a second Henry Ward Beecher. He exchanged pulpits occasionally with Dr. Wm. Jewett Tucker, later president of Dartmouth College, when Dr. Tucker was pastor of the Franklin St. Church in Manchester."[3]

While in Chester, Rev. Tomlinson married in 1869 the widow Hannah Maria (Pickett) Hazelton.[4] The couple moved to Simsbury and he was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church in 1871. He served in that capacity until 1878, when ill health caused him to resign, but he continued to serve at weddings, funerals and other occasions.[5] He performed the wedding ceremony when library trustee Rev. Charles P. Croft married Julia Mather and officiated at the funeral of John B. McLean's second wife, Ida Stillman McLean.[6] He gained the admiration of the Eno family and when Lucy Jane Phelps Eno, wife of Amos R. Eno, died in 1882 in her home in Simsbury the *Hartford Courant* reported that her funeral service was conducted by Rev. Tomlinson "her old friend and former beloved pastor of the Congregational church."[7]

When Amos R. Eno named Rev. Tomlinson a trustee of the Simsbury Free Library in 1874, he was forty-eight and the oldest member of the board. However, he served more than thirty-two years until he died at the age of eighty. From 1876 he served continuously on the Book Committee, which selected and purchased books. According to the minutes of the board in 1889 he agreed "to catalogue books" and in 1899 he was appointed "to issue a new catalogue."

It was the practice during this era for libraries to publish a catalogue listing the books in their

collections. The first Simsbury Free Library catalogue mentioned in the board's minutes is one undertaken by Secretary John B. McLean in 1874, the year the library opened. He had three hundred copies printed. Although there is no mention in the minutes he was probably the compiler of the [illegible] Simsbury Genealogical an[illegible]alogue for which Rev. Tor[illegible]ust as the library moved f[illegible] to its new building. Rev. [illegible]sign as a committee to c[illegible]memorate the 1890 dedica[illegible]The result was a small blue[illegible]

Alonzo Story in

SGARL

After M[illegible] sold the house he had [illegible]' by one newspaper rep[illegible]hat Rev. Tomlinson was [illegible]bituary in 1906 stated that [illegible]d part of the time in East [illegible] Simsbury Free Library tru[illegible]t.

Simsbury Free Library Board of Trustees

James P. Flynn
Chairman

Tara D. Willerup
Vice-Chairman

Paul F. McAlenney
Secretary

Martin Geitz
Treasurer

Richard D. Wagner

Richard Schoenhardt

Mary Jane Springman

Arthur House

Thomas J. Donohue

Melissa McKeen

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and he served until he died at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave this account of his early life:

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
>
> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (Virginia) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver), he recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months before being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
>
> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself clothes from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Calvert goes on to say that Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two

collections. The first Simsbury Free Library catalogue mentioned in the board's minutes is one undertaken by Secretary John B. McLean in 1874, the year the library opened. He had three hundred copies printed. Although there is no mention in the minutes, he was probably the compiler of the 1880 catalogue now in the archives of the Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library.[8] The 1889 catalogue for which Rev. Tomlinson was responsible updated the book list just as the library moved from the top floor of the Hop Meadow School into its new building. Rev. Tomlinson also served with Ralph Hart Ensign as a committee to compile and publish a book to record and commemorate the 1890 dedication of the Simsbury Free Library building. The result was a small blue hardcover volume with illustrations.[9]

After Mrs. Tomlinson died in 1894, Rev. Tomlinson sold the house he had built for them, called an "attractive cottage" by one newspaper reporter.[10] The 1900 U.S. census recorded that Rev. Tomlinson was then residing at the McLean Seminary and his obituary in 1906 stated that "he has lived part of the time in New Haven and part of the time in East Orange, where he died September 19."[11] The Simsbury Free Library trustees appointed Henry E. Ellsworth to fill his seat.

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and he served until he died at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave this account of his early life:

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
>
> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (Virginia) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver), he recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months before being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
>
> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself clothes from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Calvert goes on to say that Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two

Simsbury Free Library Board of Trustees

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years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was also a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," she says. The sword that he lost when he was taken prisoner was returned to him in 1887 by the former Confederate officer Captain James A. Marrow, who had been in command of the Company H, 55th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, at the Battle of the Wilderness.[12]

Lt. Alonzo Grove Case was the seventh generation in America and a direct descendant of John Case who emigrated from Aylesham, England.[13] John Case settled in Windsor before moving with his wife and children to the Weatogue section of the area called Massaco.[14] In 1669 the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut appointed him Constable, which was "the first step in the organization and setting up of a civil government at Massaco."[15] Historian Bruce C. Daniels states, "The constable, the second most important officer in these towns [after the selectmen], was the first town office created by the General Court in 1636 and was originally intended to deal with the Indians and other threats to the peace. The early military structure of the town was under his control...."[16] John Case was also the delegate to the General Court, along with Joshua Holcombe, in May 1670 when the court incorporated the town and ordered that it be called "Simmsbury."[17] John Case continued to serve his town in many capacities until he died on February 21, 1703/4.

Alonzo Grove Case's great-grandfather, Capt. Job Case, served in the French and Indian War and commanded a Simsbury militia company that saw action during the Revolutionary War.[18] His grandfather, Capt. Ariel Case, served in the 18th Regiment of Militia.[19] His father, Capt. Job Case, was a captain of the cavalry in the state militia.[20] So, Alonzo Grove and his brothers Ariel Job and Oliver Cromwell followed a long military tradition when they volunteered during the Civil War.[21]

Alonzo Case lived in the family home that still stands at 105 Terry's Plain Road, near the colonial-era militia training ground. The property came to him from his father, Capt. Job Case, and the house is believed to have been built about 1790 by his great-grandfather Capt. Job Case.[22] A look at the Simsbury agricultural returns in 1860 and 1870 U. S. censuses reveals that Job Case and his son Alonzo farmed together on the property. The 1860 census credited the father with owning two cows, 700 pounds of butter and 8,000 pounds of tobacco, as well as somewhat less significant amounts of rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and orchard products, plus a pig and $80 worth of slaughtered animals. The son was credited with one horse, two working oxen, four other cattle, a pig and $16 worth of slaughtered animals. He, too, had some Indian corn, oats and orchard products and his tobacco amounted to 5,500 pounds. So, broadleaf tobacco was the farm's primary cash crop.

Ten years later, the census lists the farm as belonging to both the father and the son, and it had increased in improved acreage from twenty to 102 acres and from five acres of woodlot to twenty-five. The value of the farm rose accordingly from $3,000 to $6,700. Tobacco on hand was only 3,800 and butter on hand was only 400 pounds, but the father and son duo had added four more cows, a second horse and nine sheep, with thirty pounds of wool counted. The other recorded products remained about the same.[23]

Amos R. Eno may have chosen Alonzo Grove Case from among all the town's farmers and Civil War veterans to be a trustee for the Simsbury Free Library because of his education and demonstrated cultural interests. When the Simsbury Lyceum was organized in 1859, Alonso Case served as its first president. Other Simsbury men who belonged to the lyceum, which continued for several winters, included Joseph R. Toy, who later died in the war at New Orleans; Rev. J. Simmons,

the minister of the Simsbury Methodist Episcopal Church at the time; William E. Simmons, then the teacher at the Weatogue school; Jeffrey O. Phelps, who later served as state senator in 1867; John Ellsworth, who became a judge in Alameda, California; James R. Merritt, later of San Francisco; Rev. Allen McLean, minister at the Congregational Church; and Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth.[24]

Alonzo G. Case's first assignment on the Simsbury Free Library's board in 1874 was "to procure a sign to be placed on the Library building."[25] In October 1875, he served as president pro tem in the absence of Horace Belden, then Lt. Case was elected to the position of president continuously from 1876 to 1884. After that he was elected secretary from 1885 until 1891. In October 1890 he was appointed, along with Horace Belden and William Whitehead, to a committee "with discerning power in regard to renting the upper part of the [new] Library building."[26]

After more than twenty-seven years on the board of the Simsbury Free Library, Alonzo Grove Case died on May 5, 1902. He was the first of the original trustees to die and his son, Burton Grove Case (1872-1918) was appointed to fill his seat.[27]

By Mary Jane Springman

Notes

1. Samuel Orcutt, *Henry Tomlinson and His Descendants in America....* (New Haven, Conn.: Price, Lee & Adkins, 1891), 135.

2. Ibid., 145.

3. John Carroll Chase, *History of Chester, New Hampshire....* (Derry, N.H.: J.C. Chase, 1926), 10.

4. Ibid., 333.

4. Lyman G. Potter, *A History of First Church of Christ at Massaco, Simsbury, Connecticut* (Simsbury, Conn.: First Church of Christ, 2002), 79.

6. *Hartford Daily Courant*, April 24, 1871, 2; February 18, 1885, 4.

7. *Hartford Courant*, November 21, 1882, 2.

8. *Catalogue of Simsbury Free Library, November 1, 1880* (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Print., 1880). Penciled inscriptions in the forty-page papercover catalogue state the it belonged to W. J. Hoskins of Simsbury.

9. *Report of the Proceedings at the Dedication of the Simsbury Free Library, January 28, 1890* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893).

10. "Simsbury's Old Homes," *Hartford Courant*, August 10, 1894, 10. The Simsbury Land Records show that Rev. Tomlinson bought the half-acre lot on which he built his house from Dr. Lucius I. Barber on October 20, 1882 (vol. 50, 287). The lot was described as being "northwesterly from the dwelling house of Said Barber" and on the opposite side of the street. Barber lived at 930 Hopmeadow Street, where the Starbucks coffee shop is now.

11. Obituary of Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson, *Hartford Courant*, September 22, 1906, 17.

12. Lois W. Calvert, former managing director of The Simsbury Historical Society, based her account of the sword's return on letters to Case from Marrow and H. T. Harvey, now in the archives of the historical society. The sword, which was presented to Case by "a citizen of the Town of Simsbury" when he was promoted to lieutenant at Fredericksburg, is also in the historical society's collections. In addition, Mrs. Calvert drew material from *The Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County* (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1901), 525-27.

13. Ruth Cost Duncan, comp., *John Case and His Descendants* [2nd ed.] (Simsbury: The Simsbury Free Library, 2000), 139-40.

14. Barber, 35.

15. Ibid., 38-39.

16. Bruce C. Daniels, *The Connecticut Town: Growth and Development, 1635-1790* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1979), 70.

17. Barber, 40. He quotes *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776*, 15 vols. (Hartford: Brown & Parsons, 1850-1890), 2, 127.

18. Duncan, 19; Barber, 308-09; *Simsbury Soldiers in the War of the Revolution* (Simsbury: Abigail Phelps

Jean Nudd to Give the Spring Talk on June 9

Please Help Us Choose the Topic

Jean Nudd, Archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, will return to our library on June 9 to speak on **one** of the following topics:

Beginning Your Genealogical Research at the National Archives
Using Federal Census Records
Military Records at the National Archives
Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives
Using Pre-1850 Census to Find Family Relationships
Using Military Pension Files to Locate Family Relationships
Finding Family Migrations in Federal Records
Using World War I Draft Records at the National Archives
Using Canadian Border Crossing Records
Internet Resources for Genealogists

If a topic particularly interests you, please let us know by **April 1**.
Call: 860.658.5382 Write: P.O. Box 484, Simsbury, CT 06070
E-mail: genhist93@hotmail.com

The most popular topic will be announced in the Spring newsletter and in the local media. Following her presentation, Ms. Nudd will answer questions about any genealogical matter.

SAVE THE DATE: June 9, 11:00 A.M. ★ FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chapter, NSDAR, 1982), 93.

19. Duncan, 46.

20. Ibid., 94.

21. Barber, 337.

22. Abigail Eno Ellsworth, comp., A *Record of the History of Some of the Old Houses of Simsbury* (Simsbury: Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, 1936), 71. Lucius I. Barber, *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* (Simsbury: The Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, 1931), 94.

23. *Eighth Census of the United States. Original records of the Assistant Marshals, Agriculture for the Year 1860 in Connecticut*, "Simsbury," 7-10, *Ninth Census...1870….*, "Simsbury, Weatogue," 7-8. Bound original documents in the archives of the Connecticut State Library, History and Genealogy Unit.

24. *Hartford Courant*, April 21, 1896, 10. The article said that Mrs. L. S. Ellsworth had the lyceum's record book in her possession at that time. Also, according to records kept by the Connecticut State Library (http://www.cslib.org/conngares.asp), Jeffrey O. Phelps was a Democrat in the Senate in 1867 and that year Alonzo G. Case served in the House as a Republican.

25. *Original Minute Book of Trustee's Meetings of Simsbury Free Library, 1874-1944* (photocopy), 17.

26. Ibid., 39. No record of a rental appears in the minutes until October 1912, when the librarian was directed "to rent and give use of large room on second story to Historical Society," the Simsbury Historical Society having been incorporated in 1911.

27. *Original Minute Book*, 66.

Some Recent Acquisitions

From Colonial Parish to Modern Suburb: A Brief Appreciation of West Hartford by Nelson R. Burr (donated by Robert McComb)
The Goddard Book, 2 vols., by John W. Harms and Pearl Goddard Harms (donated by William Harris)
Kinship: It's All Relative by Jackie Smith Arnold
List of Inhabitants in 1779 York County, PA by William L. Iscrupe (anonymous donation)
The Holy Bible...In Two Volumes, vol. 1, pub. by E. H. Butler & Co., 1851 (donated by Tom Killeen)
The Holy Bible pub. by The American Bible Society, 1867 (donated by Tom Killeen)
A Primer of Forestry: Part II Practical Forestry by Gifford Pinchot (donated by Robert B. McComb)
The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut [Compact Disk] by Jacquelyn Ladd Ricker (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)
Virginia Genealogies and County Records by Annie Walker Burns (anonymous donation)

Family Records From a Bible Donated by Tom Killeen

The *Holy Bible* published by E. H. Butler & Company in 1851 has the inscription on a flyleaf "George Mills book." The records below are written in that volume.

Marriages
Aug ^{30} 1842 George Mills to Emily E. Miller
Fannie E. Mills & Clayton P. Holcomb Married Apr 13th 1864
Washburn G. Mills & C. C. Curtis Married Dec 6th 1866.
Frank M. Mills & Ella Mallery June 24th 1875.
Fannie E. Holcomb and Selden Minor June 29th 1876.
Charles K. Mills and Louise A. Clark Sept 27th 1882.
Frederick M. Mills and Mary Higley Dec 25th 1883
William H. Mills and Kate A. Riddiford Jan 18th 1888

Births
George Mills Born June 9 1817
Emily E. Miller Born Jan 4 1819
Frances E. Mills Born Oct 1 1843
Washburn G. Mills Born Nov 18 1845
Frank M. Mills Born July 24 1848
Charles K. Mills Born Sept 12 1851 Died June 1 1925
Lillian E. Mills Born Dec 23 1859
Willie H. Mills Born March 11 1857.
Fredie M. Mills Born Oct 2nd 1859
Lillie M. Holcomb born Sept 18th 1865
Josie Emily Mills Born August 28th 1876.
Mills Curtis Lane Born Dec 1st 1908
William Charles Lane Born July 28 - 1911

Deaths
George Mills died January 25th 1890 at 10 PM
Lillian E. Mills died May 29 1857
Clayton P. Holcomb Died February 21, 1870.
Lillie M. Holcomb Died Feb 23rd 1883
William H. Mills Dec 1918
Charles K. Mills June 1st 1925
Mills Curtis Lane Died Feb 21, 1965 at 4 p.m.
Emily Frances Mills born Nov 21st 1897
Died April 8th 1936 at 7: P.M.
Emily E. Mills Died November 27, 1880.
At 8 Oclock AM
Frederick M. Mills Died Oct 23 1886 at 8 Oclock AM
Mrs. Katie Riddiford Mills Died June 23rd 1890
Aged 86 Years
Frank M. Mills Died March 29th 1910.
Washburn G. Mills August 3rd 1915
Eugenia E. Curtis Feb. 24 - 1914
Josie Emily Mills Lane Died July 29th - 1947
Robert Lane died July 1st 1955

The family records written in the American Bible Society volume published in 1867 will appear in the Spring issue of the newsletter. Additional family names found in that Bible include Hamlin, Horton, Root, and Wright. We are indebted to Mr. Killeen for this invaluable information.

In Memory of Irene Welden

Simsbury lost one of its most valued citizens on December 29, 2006, when Alice Irene Welden died at the age of 103. The daughter of Reuben William and Alice Louise (Bidwell) Welden, she was born in Simsbury on December 21, 1903. Her family had been part of the town since 1876. Her father, who was known as "Will," ran a sporting goods store on Hopmeadow Street and her uncle, Samuel T. Welden, ran the Welden Hardware Store on Station Street. He was also a tobacco grower and a florist with five greenhouses. Her mother, who was from Arlington, Pennsylvania, was a Bidwell from the Bidwell family that was among the founders of Hartford. Her brother and his wife were the late William and Lillian Welden.

Miss Welden graduated from Simsbury High School in the class of 1926 and attended Northfield Academy. For almost forty years she was employed by the original Simsbury Bank & Trust, where she was the head of the savings department.

She was a lifelong member of the Simsbury United Methodist Church. Her baptism took place in the Simsbury Casino, the old community center formerly on the site of the Eno Memorial Hall, because the present church was under construction. She served as the church organist for seven and a half years and substituted on many occasions. She also sang in the choir and was a member of the Rebekah Circle.

Miss Welden was a past Regent of the Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, a pianist for the Simsbury Grange and a member of the A.A.R.P. Chapter 790, the Hartford Audubon Society, Hester Chapter Order of the Eastern Star #71 and this library. In 1997 Miss Welden greatly aided the library by donating almost four hundred books from her genealogical collection. We were honored to know her and will miss her.

SGHRL Updates

The library has added three computers for use by patrons thanks to the generosity of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company of Hartford. The Board of Trustees, assisted by Library Director Allison Krug, applied for the computers several months ago. Charles Housner, President of CEH Consulting, Inc., has volunteered to install the Microsoft software donated by Attorney Jerry Devine of the Microsoft Corporate Legal Department. They will be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter. Do come in and use them to search Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest and numerous other genealogical sites. Remember also that we have wireless Internet access for your own computer.

* * *

SGHRL's Web site is under development and will be available soon. You will be able to access it at http://www.sghrl.org. Ms. Krug and Mr. Housner have been working on it under the supervision of Chairman Jim Flynn and other members of the Board of Trustees.

* * *

Peg Donohue, our past chairman, Margaret Lindauer, Dottie Cathles and Joyce Cahill came to help prepare the Fall newsletters for mailing. Many thanks to them all!

* * *

The late Mary Jane Guerry, a past trustee, her daughter Linda Dotson, also a past trustee, and Mrs. Dotson's daughter Melissa McKeen, a present trustee, are all direct descendants of original trustee Alonzo Grove Case. He is featured in this issue of the newsletter.

New England CONNECTions 2007
26-29 April
Hartford, Connecticut

This exciting event for genealogists will be held at the Hartford Convention Center. Many well-known, well-versed speakers are scheduled to address a multitude of genealogical topics. For more information and to register, please go to the conference Web site (http://www.nergc.org) or come into SGHRL to get a brochure.

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The series **The Simsbury Free Library: The Original Trustees** began in the Fall 2006 issue of the newsletter, which had brief biographies of Horace Belden and Rev. Charles Pitman Croft. The lives of Rev. J. Logan Tomlinson and Alonzo Grove Case are featured in this issue. Brief biographies of Aaron Eno, George C. Eno, Amos F. Eno, Ralph H. Ensign, John B. McLean and William H. Whitehead will follow.

SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY
749 Hopmeadow Street
P.O. Box 484
Simsbury, CT 06070
860 658-5382
E-mail: genhist93@hotmail.com
Thurs.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Allison B. Krug, Library Director
Mary Jane Springman, Newsletter Editor

FIRST CLASS

Simsbury Free Library
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070
(860) 408-1336

Simsbury Free Library

this is the library
where I acquired
the story about
A. G. Case

George Chester Eno (1854-1935)

George Chester Eno, Aaron Eno's younger brother, was not quite twenty years old in August 1874 when his uncle Amos R. Eno appointed him to the Simsbury Free Library's Board of Trustees. He had been educated at the Hop Meadow District School, the high school in New Britain, the Gunnery School in Washington, Connecticut, and he would graduate in the Class of 1875 from Hartford High School.[27] His future wife, Miss Nellie Selina Goodrich of Simsbury, graduated with him.[28] They married three years later and lived on the home farm for a time until they moved to the farm known as the Moses Ensign Place, which he bought in 1894 from his wife's widowed mother, Martha Abigail (Ensign) Goodrich.[29] Mrs. Goodrich and her daughter Juliette lived there with them for a few years.[30]

One biographer said of George Eno, "For fourteen years he was in the United States railway mail service, between New Haven and Williamsburg, and Springfield and New York City. In 1889 he negotiated for the right of way for the Central New England & Western railroad between Tariffville and the Massachusetts State line. At present [1901] he is extensively engaged in general farming and tobacco culture, and is a licensed dealer in leaf tobacco, while he also represents some of the best insurance companies in the country."[31] He was a notary public and his brother Aaron was a justice of the peace, as was trustee Alonzo G. Case.[32]

The George Chester Enos had three daughters, Amy Bird (1881-1903), who never married; Alice Goodrich (1883-1942); who married Richard Huntington Cole, a vice-president of the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, and lived in Hartford; and Margaret (1889-1961), who married Dr. Karlton Goodsell Percy and lived in Brookline, Massachusetts.[33]

George Chester Eno became the longest serving member of the Simsbury Free Library board. When he died at the age of eighty he had been on the board over sixty years. His first position was librarian and he was appointed to that post almost consecutively until his brother Aaron became the librarian in 1890. He was the board's secretary for a year and served on the book committee for several years. While the library was still in the second floor of the Hop Meadow District School he was authorized to procure rubber buttons to be placed on chair legs. He also purchased a new stove and an oil tank and burner.[34]

There was a period from the late 1880s until 1918 when Mr. Eno continued on the board, but held no office. Then he became vice president in 1918 and continued in that position until the time of his death in 1935. He was elevated to first vice president when the post of second vice president was created in 1928.

Mr. Eno resumed the post of librarian in 1920, replacing Horace Belden who had resigned. As soon as he became librarian, Mr. Eno presented the board with a letter "showing some needs of the library in way of toilet accommodations, more room for books, shingling, possible home for librarian, etc."[35] The second story of the library had been built with the idea that it would someday be used to house a librarian, but it was never used for that purpose. Neither was it considered for library purposes during George C. Eno's lifetime. In the 1920s the upstairs was modified to accommodate the Simsbury Historical Society and the Board of Education, both of which rented their rooms from the Simsbury Free Library board.

Apparently Mr. Eno's letter was mailed to several other members of the extended Eno family and eventually Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood agreed to underwrite the building of a one-story addition to the rear of the original library building, which had been donated by her father, the late Amos R. Eno.

A SIMSBURY ROMANCE

The front page of the *Hartford Courant* of August 10, 1899, announced "A SIMSBURY ROMANCE." The article revealed that just after midnight Mr. Charles P. Case, 29, (son of library trustee Alonzo Grove Case) had come to the newspaper office to place an item in that day's paper announcing his marriage earlier that year to Miss Sarah Goodwin Eno, 22, (daughter of library trustee Aaron Lewis Eno).

Mr. Case had just attended the funeral of Jeffrey Orson Phelps and was on his way back to New York City, where he was a bookkeeper in the Fulton Market. Sensing there was a story to be told, the *Courant* investigated and found that the couple had been engaged for some time, but their marriage plans had been opposed by her parents and especially by her maternal grandfather, the late Jeffrey Orson Phelps. No reason for the opposition was given.

Mr. Phelps's obituary in the *Courant* described him as a "wealthy resident of Simsbury [who was] almost as well-known in [Hartford] as in his native town." It also called him "a farmer and a capitalist." He was a director of the Hartford & Connecticut Western Railroad and had been a director of the National Exchange Bank in Hartford. Simsbury Free Library trustees William H. Whitehead, Horace Belden and George C. Eno were among the six pallbearers at Mr. Phelps's funeral.

The August 10 article said that Miss Eno had paid a visit of some length to friends of the family in South Norwalk, and "it was at this time that she visited New York, and the marriage knot was tied, without the knowledge of a soul in Simsbury." It concluded that Mr. Phelps's death "relieved the young folks of the necessity of further secrecy in the perfectly honorable attachment and they attended the funeral of Mr. Phelps yesterday as recognized affianced lovers. At the same time no one suspected that they were already married and the announcement this morning will come as a genuine surprise to every one in the old town. It will, however, be hailed with considerable satisfaction by relatives and near friends, as Mr. Case is highly thought of and many were desirous of seeing the uniting of two hearts, where opposition had kept them so long apart." Mrs. Case, it said, would soon join her husband and they would make New York their home.

A biographical sketch of Civil War veteran Alonzo Grove Case appeared in the Winter 2006-07 issue of this newsletter. Jeffery O. Phleps's obituary and articles on the secret marriage and the funeral were accessed electronically through Proquest Historical Newspapers Hartford Courant (1764-1922). The site is on iCONN available on the Simsbury Public Library Web site: www.simsburylibrary.info

Talk on Genealogy Saturday, June 9, 2007, 11:00 a.m. in the Library

Jean Nudd, Archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, will speak on two topics of interest to genealogists and family historians. Free and open to the public. **See page 8 for details.**

★★★

The SGHRL Web site is now online. Learn what's at the library and what's new by going to www.sghrl.org

★★★

Have you see the Web site that reports on DNA results for the Humphrey Family? It is at http://humphreygenealogy.com Many thanks to Tom Sharpless for this information. Michael Humphrey and John Griffen were the first settlers of Simsbury.

Alonzo [illegible]
the original trustee

r ??—Alonzo Grove Case Story

alogical and Historical Research Library
ne 13 Issue 4 Winter 2006-07

he Simsbury Free Library
l Trustees By Mary Jane Springman

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Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and served until his death at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave the following account of his early life.

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
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> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (Virginia) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver Cromwell Case), He recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
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> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself cloths from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Calvert goes on to say Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the Town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," The sword that he lost when he was taken prisoner was returned to him in 1887 by the former Confederate officer Captain James A.

Chapter ??—Alonzo Grove Case Story

Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library
Volume 13 Issue 4 Winter 2006-07

The Simsbury Free Library
The Original Trustees By Mary Jane Springman

Amos R. Eno appointed ten trustees in 1874 to manage the affairs of the Simsbury Free Library. The composition of the board remained the same for more than twenty-seven years, demonstrating the wisdom of Mr. Eno's selection and dedication of the men he chose.

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and served until his death at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave the following account of his early life.

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
>
> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (Virginia) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver Cromwell Case), He recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
>
> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself cloths from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.

Mrs. Calvert goes on to say Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the Town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," The sword that he lost when he was taken prisoner was returned to him in 1887 by the former Confederate officer Captain James A.

Marrow, who had been in command of the Company H, 55th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, at the Battle of the Wilderness.

LT. Alonzo Grove Case was the seventh generation in America and a direct descendant of John Case I who emigrated from Aylesham, England.

John Case I settled in Windsor before moving with his wife and children to Weatogue section of the area called Massaco. In 1669 the general court of the Colony of Connecticut appointed him Constable, which was "the first step in the organization and setting up a civil government at Massaco." Historian Bruce C. Daniels states, "The constable, the second most important officer in the towns [after the selectmen], was the first town office created by the General Court in 1636 and was originally intended to deal with the Indians and other threats to the peace. The early military structure of the town was under his control…." John Case I was also the delegate to the General Court, along with Joshua Holcombe, in May 1670 when the court incorporated the town and ordered it be called "Simmsbury." John Case I continued to serve his home town in many capacities until he died on February 21, 1703/04.

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Barbara Story; [illegible]

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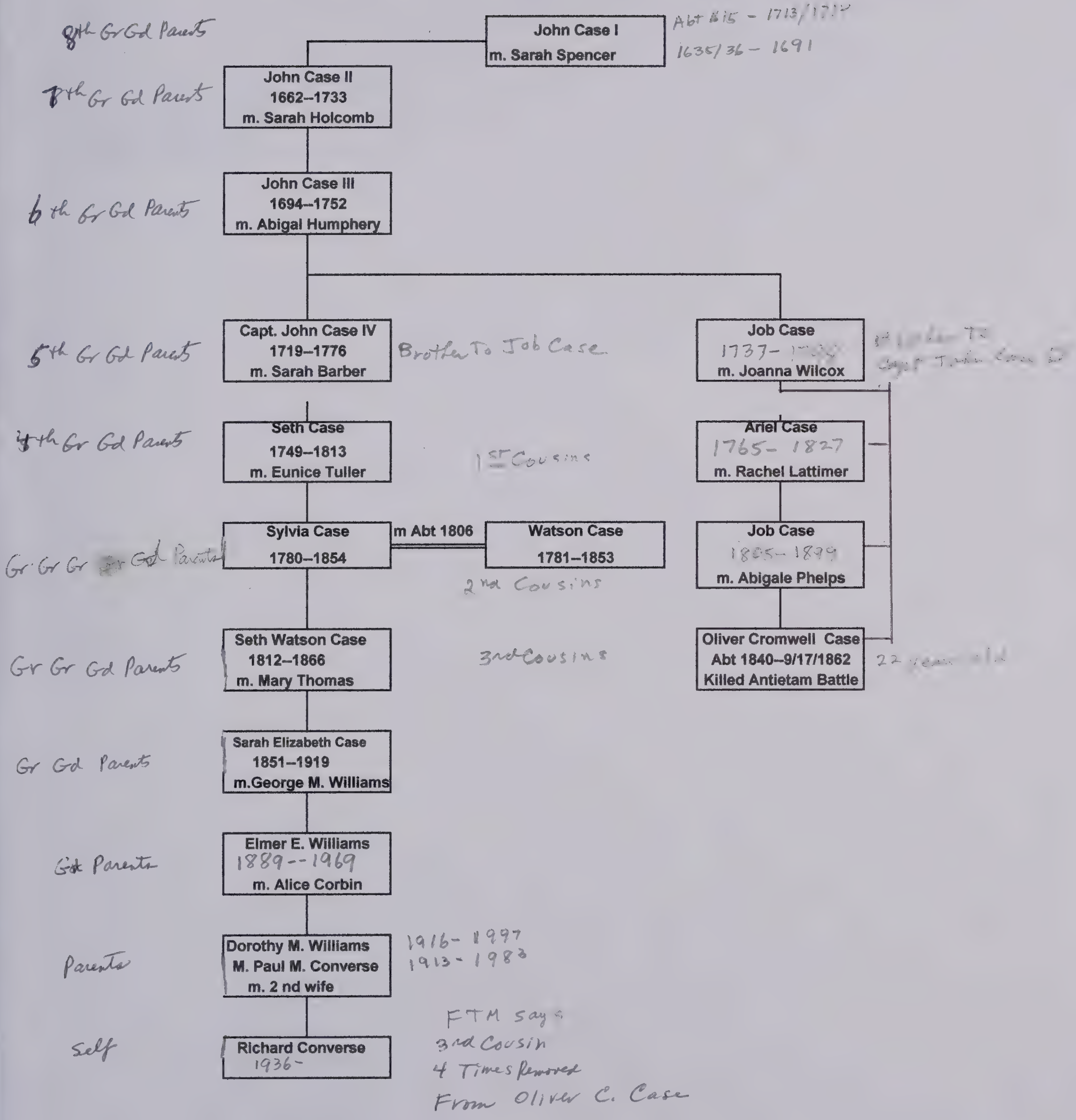
Case Families
Ancestry Chart


8th Gr Gd Parents
John Case I
m. Sarah Spencer
Abt 1615 – 1713/1714
1635/36 – 1691
7th Gr Gd Parents
John Case II
1662--1733
m. Sarah Holcomb
6th Gr Gd Parents
John Case III
1694--1752
m. Abigal Humphery
5th Gr Gd Parents
Capt. John Case IV
1719--1776
m. Sarah Barber
Brother To Job Case
Job Case
1737– 1[illegible]
m. Joanna Wilcox
Brother To Capt John Case IV
4th Gr Gd Parents
Seth Case
1749--1813
m. Eunice Tuller
1st Cousins
Ariel Case
1765– 1827
m. Rachel Lattimer
Gr Gr Gr Gr Gd Parents
Sylvia Case
1780--1854
m Abt 1806
Watson Case
1781--1853
2nd Cousins
Job Case
1805– 1899
m. Abigale Phelps
Gr Gr Gd Parents
Seth Watson Case
1812--1866
m. Mary Thomas
3rd Cousins
Oliver Cromwell Case
Abt 1840--9/17/1862
Killed Antietam Battle
22 years old
Gr Gd Parents
Sarah Elizabeth Case
1851--1919
m.George M. Williams
Gd Parents
Elmer E. Williams
1889 -- 1969
m. Alice Corbin
Parents
Dorothy M. Williams
M. Paul M. Converse
m. 2 nd wife
1916– 1997
1913– 1983
Self
Richard Converse
1936–
FTM says
3rd Cousin
4 Times Removed
From Oliver C. Case

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 /William Case b: Abt 1586 d: Abt 1635
                                                             /John Thurstin Case b: Bet 1616 and 1619 d: 21 Feb 1703/04
                                                             |       \Elizabeth Purchase b: 1593
                                                     /John Windsor Case b: 5 Nov 1662 d: 22 May 1733
                                                     |       \Sarah Spencer b: 7 Mar 1634/35 d: 3 Nov 1691
                                             /John Case b: 22 Aug 1694 d: 2 Dec 1752
                                             |       \Sarah Halcomb b: 23 Jun 1668 d: 1763
                                     /Job Case b: 3 Jun 1737 d: 17 Dec 1812
                                     |       \Abigail Humphrey b: 13 Jan 1696/97
                             /Ariel Case b: 28 Jun 1765 d: 17 Sep 1827
                             |       \Joanna Wilcox b: 1740 d: 17 Dec 1812
                     /Job Case b: 1805 d: 1899
                     |       \Rachel Latimer b: 1765 d: 1816
             /Arie Job Case b: 1831 d: 1875
             |       \Abigale Phelps b: 1805 d: 1877
     /Oliver Cromwell Case b: 1862 d: 1908
     |       \Mary Elizebeth Thompson b: 1835 d: 1922
Ruth Elizebeth Case b: 1889
     \Mary Elizebeth Owens b: 1870 d: 1927
```

9 **Abigail Griswold Phelps** b: June 16, 1805 d: Unknown

.... **+Job Case** b: July 28, 1805 m: April 16, 1828 d: Unknown

.... 10 **Rachel Lurana Case** b: June 18, 1828 d: 1830

.... 10 **Ariel Job Case** b: January 02, 1831 d: Unknown

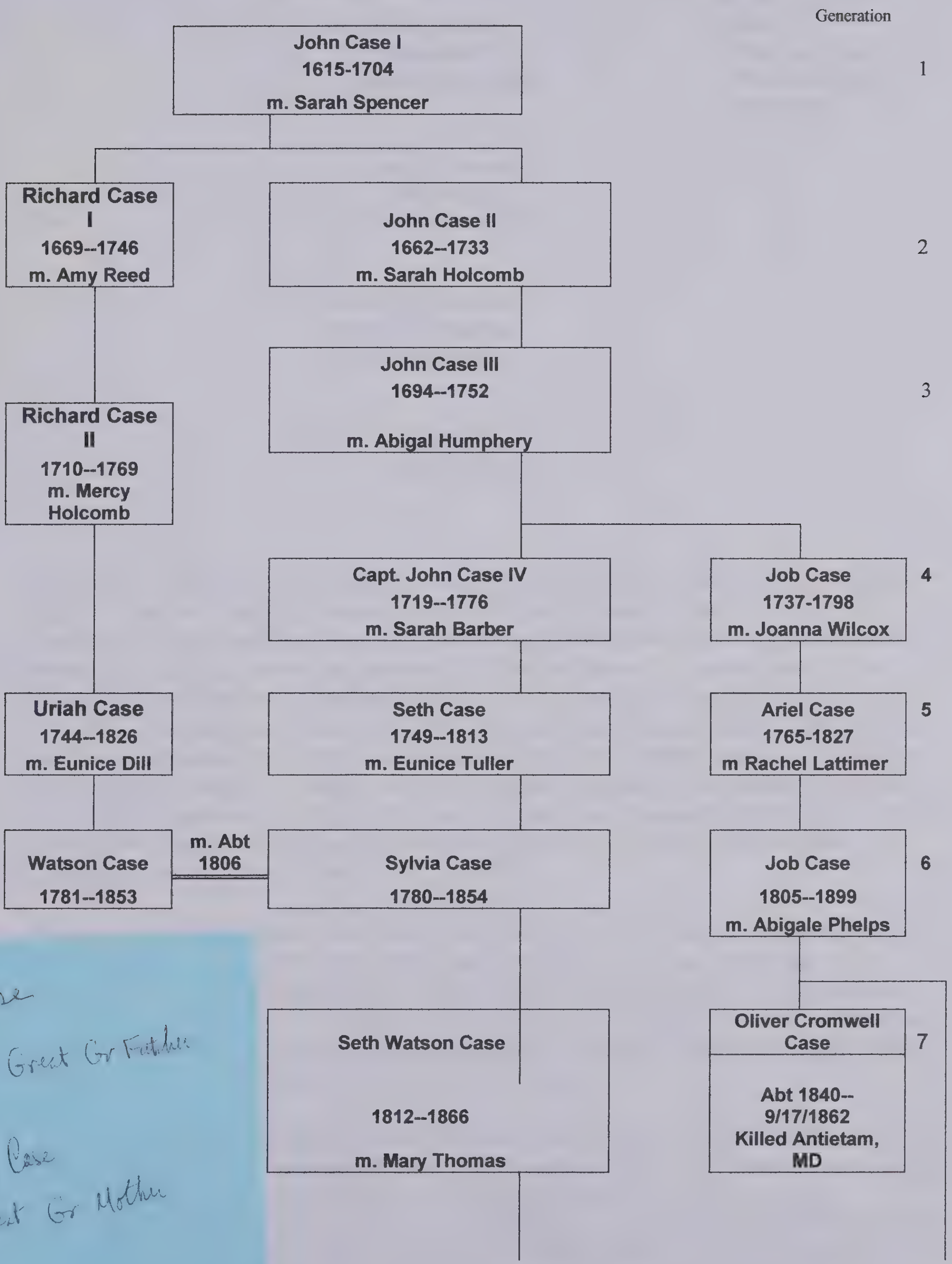
.... 10 **Alonzo Grove Case** b: January 07, 1834 d: Unknown

.... 10 **Oliver Cromwell Case** b: December 22, 1839 d: October 16, 1862

.... 10 **Abby Jane Case** b: August 11, 1846 d: Unknown

Case Families

Ancestry Chart


Generation
John Case I
1615-1704
m. Sarah Spencer
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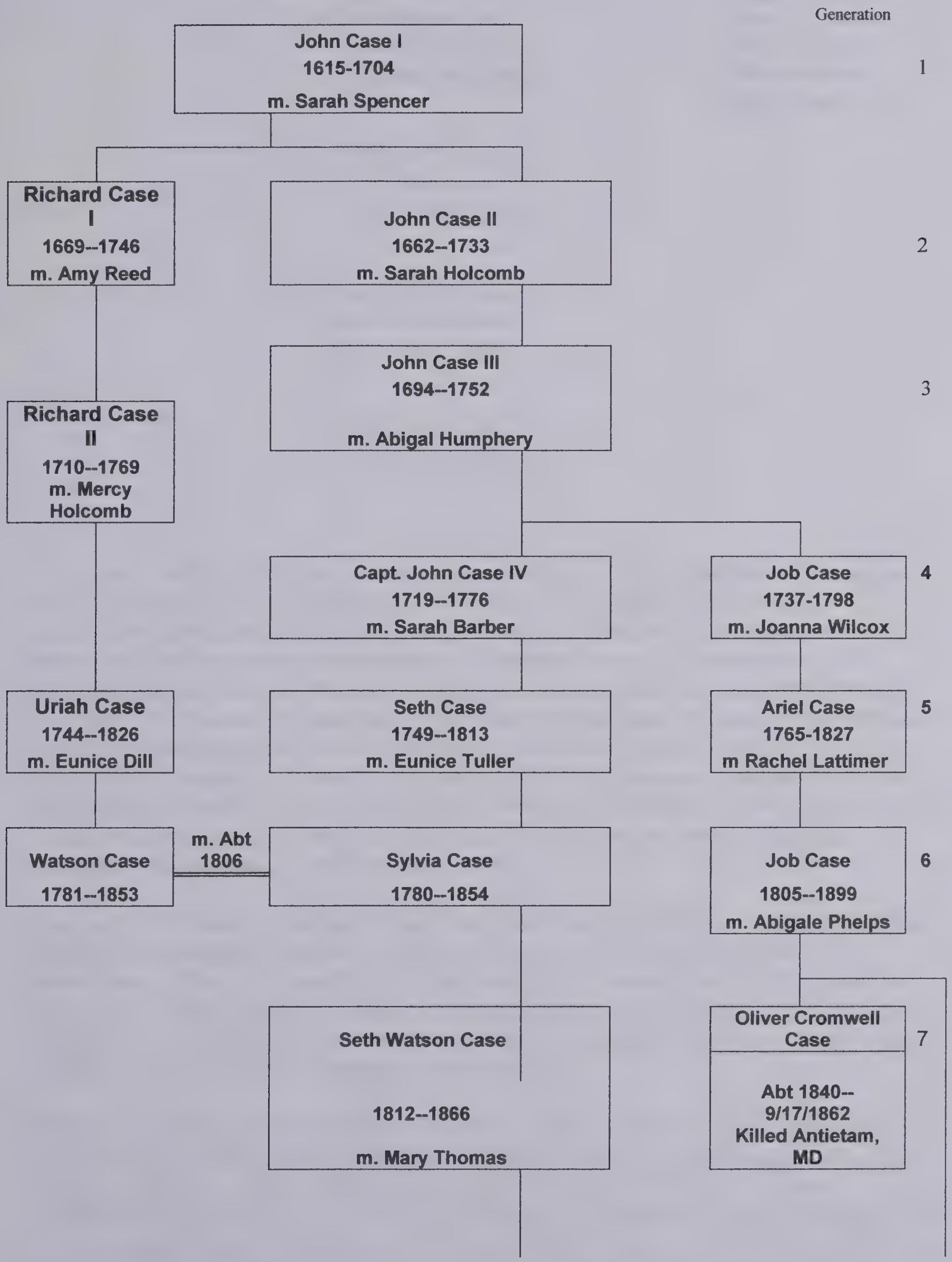
Richard Case I
1669--1746
m. Amy Reed
John Case II
1662--1733
m. Sarah Holcomb
2
John Case III
1694--1752
m. Abigal Humphery
3
Richard Case II
1710--1769
m. Mercy Holcomb
Capt. John Case IV
1719--1776
m. Sarah Barber
Job Case
1737-1798
m. Joanna Wilcox
4
Uriah Case
1744--1826
m. Eunice Dill
Seth Case
1749--1813
m. Eunice Tuller
Ariel Case
1765-1827
m Rachel Lattimer
5
Watson Case
1781--1853
m. Abt 1806
Sylvia Case
1780--1854
Job Case
1805--1899
m. Abigale Phelps
6
Seth Watson Case
1812--1866
m. Mary Thomas
Oliver Cromwell Case
Abt 1840--9/17/1862
Killed Antietam, MD
7

Seth Case
My 4th Great Gr Father

Sarah Eliz Case
My Great Gr Mother

Case Families

Ancestry Chart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Sarah Elizabeth Case
1851–1919
m.George M. Williams

Elmer E. Williams
1875–1947
m. Sadie Alice Corbin

Dorothy M. Williams
m Paul M. Converse
She was 2 nd wife

Richard Converse
m. Betty J. Hayes

Oliver's bothers:
Alonzo Grove Case
Ariel Job Case
Oliver's sister:
Abbie Case

7

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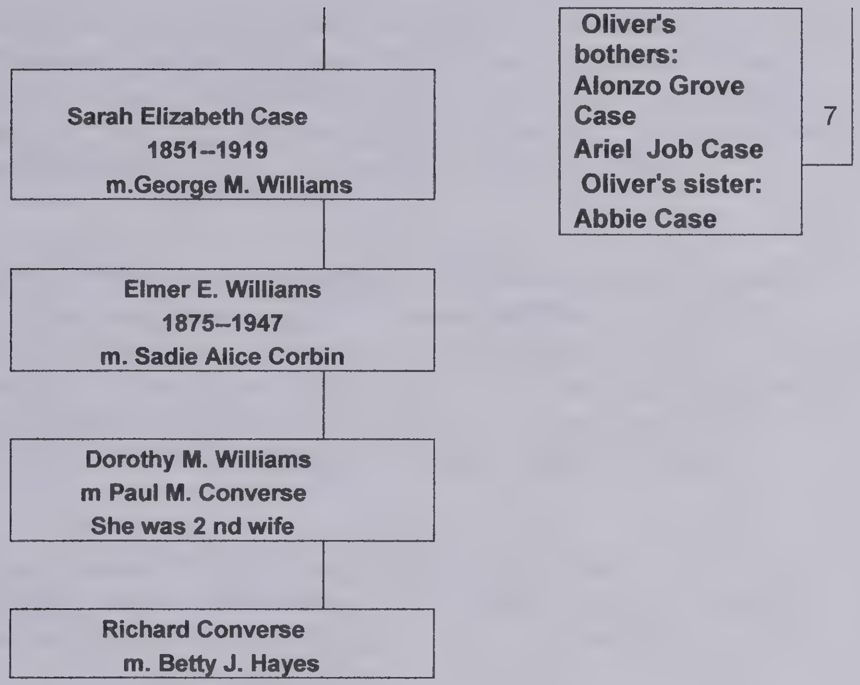
Alonzo Grove Case's great-grandfather, Capt. Job Case, served in the French and Indian War and commanded a Simsbury militia company that saw action during the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, Capt. Ariel Case, served in the 18th Regiment of Militia. His father, Capt. Job Case, was a captain of the cavalry in the state militia. So, Alonzo Grove and his brothers Ariel Job and Oliver Cromwell followed a long military tradition when they volunteered during the Civil War.

Alonzo Case lived in the family home that still stands at 105 Terry's Plains Road, near the colonial-era militia training ground. The property came to him from his father, Capt. Job Case, and the house is believed to have been built about 1790 by his great-grandfather Capt. Job Case. A look at the Simsbury agricultural returns in 1860 and 1870 U. S. censuses reveals that Job Case and his son Alonzo farmed together on the property. The 1860 census credited the father with owning two cows, 700 pounds of butter and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8,000 pounds of tobacco, as well as less significant amount of rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and orchard products, plus a pig and $80 worth of slaughtered animals. The son was credited with one horse, two working oxen, four other cattle, a pig and $16 worth of slaughtered animals. He, too, had some Indian corn, oats, and orchard products and his tobacco amounted to 5,500 pounds. So, broadleaf tobacco was the farm's primary cash crop.

Ten years later, the census lists the farm as belonging to both the father and son, and it had increased in improved acreage from twenty to 102 acres and from five acres of woodlot to twenty-five. The value of the farm rose accordingly from $3,000 t0 $6,700. Tobacco on hand was only 3,800 and butter on hand was only 400 pounds, but the father and son duo had added four more cows, a second horse and nine sheep, with thirty pounds of wool counted. The other recorded products remained about the same.

Alonzo G. Case's first assignment on the Simsbury Free Library's board in 1874 was "to procure a sign to be placed on the Library building." … Lt. Case was electedto the position of president pro tem from 1876 to 1884. After that he was elected secretary from 1885 until 1891….

After more than twenty-seven years on the board of the Simsbury Free Library, Alonzo Grove Case died on May 5, 1902. He was the first of the original trustees to die and his son, Burton Grove Case (1872-19+18) was appointed to fill his seat.

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he was
living w/
his father-
in-law

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for their Regiment from the paymaster,
their Regiment had not been properly musted in to service
of the U.S. they had not been registered in Washington.
It was cleared up and they were paid after Colonel Burnham
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Alonzo's comments follow!

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[Second] Lieutenant Alonzo G. Case [Company E], writing to the author of this history about this matter says:

> In October 1862 before we left Pleasant Valley we had several men that were not able to march sent to the hospital and these men had to have their descriptive lists made out.[2] I made them out for Co. E and in the blank "by whom mustered into U. S. service," I wrote Adjutant J. [John] H. Burnham. When I carried them to him, he said "that was not right," but we were mustered by Lieutenant [Watson] Webb [first lieutenant, 3rd Artillery].[3] I told him that Lieutenant Webb never mustered me in nor any of Company E. Well, we went to Falmouth and our not getting paid gave rise to the story that we were not known in Washington. We went to Newport News and there we were paid but we were paid in old money, while the other regiments were paid in new bills by another paymaster, so the men said the paymaster came from Connecticut about the time the Sergeants had their first meeting and wrote to Governor Buckingham. He replied to them and my 1st Sergeant [William H. Cone].[4] Showed me the letter, and he told them if they had not been mustered into the U. S. service
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registered in Washington. In the score, we were forgotten.)

Alonzo writing to
Wm H Relyea
book page 76

Source: 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
Author: Sergeant William H Relyea

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(Note: This is the only mistake Colonel Burnham ever made in his dealing with the men, and to the end of his days he firmly held the love and respect of every member of the regiment. We were mustered all right but had not been registered in Washington. In the score, we were forgotten.)

Source: 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
Author: Sergeant William H Relyea

Forwarding emails from my niece to my sister.---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Charlotte Bacon** <cbbacon57@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2016 at 9:18 AM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Alonzo Case letters
To: "C. and B. Strong" <strongca@comcast.net>

Original email sent by:

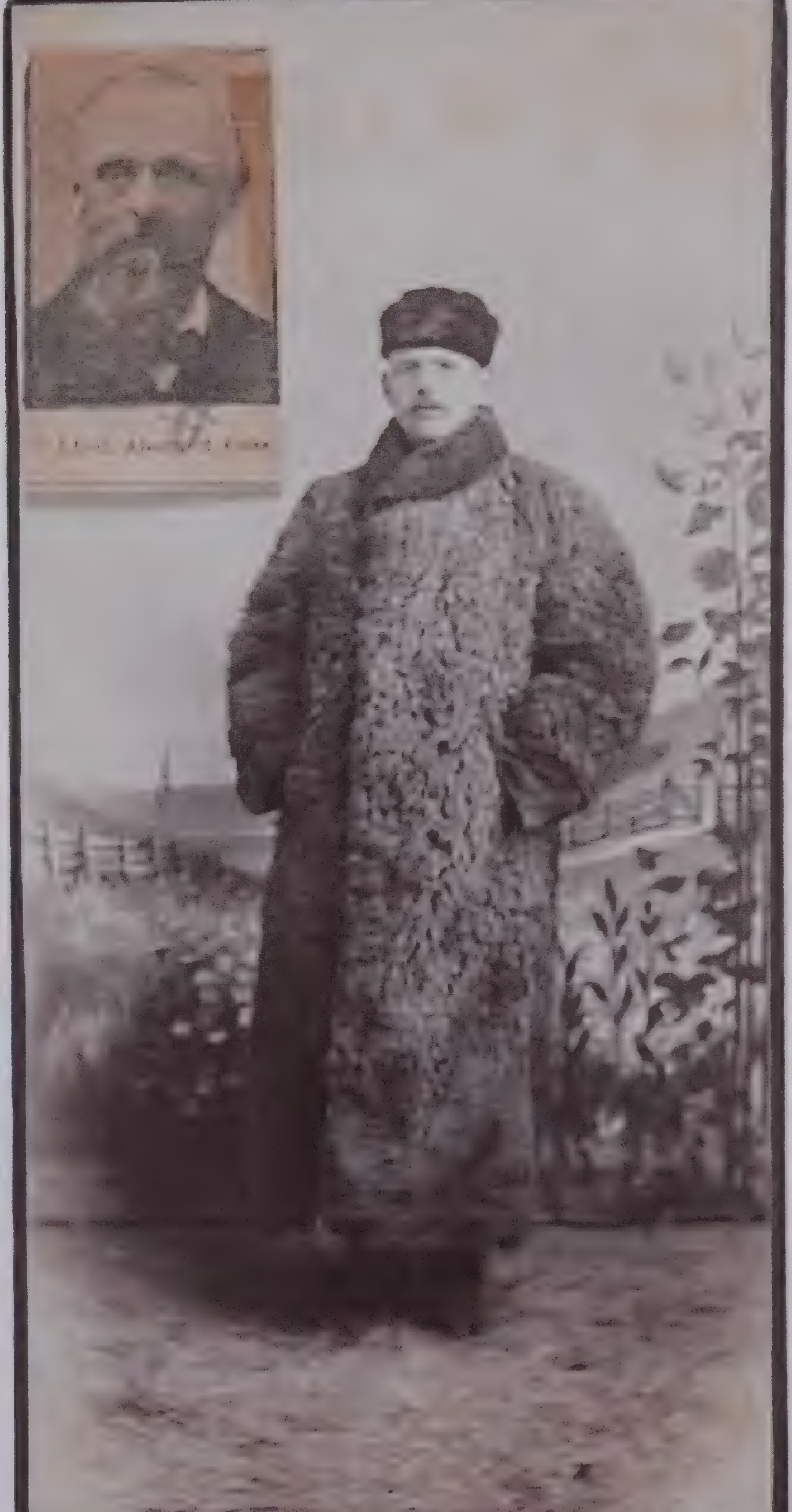
----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Robin Murphy <robinleemurphy@gmail.com>
To: Sarah McBride <sarahbid5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 7:12 PM
Subject: Alonzo Case letters
Letters sold April 5, 2016

Well, the letters were sold at auction just this morning - unbeknownst to us, at about the time we were talking about them this morning, the auction was beginning. The letters sold for $5625. I'm a little sick about this - not that there was much to be done...but I wonder how the letters ended up in the hands of the seller.

I will contact the auction house and see if they will put me in touch with the buyer - I don't know if they will....

The letters sound very interesting - Alonzo even mentions seeing Abe Lincoln in one letter. I always wondered why we didn't have any letters after he was transferred from Andersonville...this is the answer. He was a prolific writer - there were over 40 letters in this sale. Here's the link to Heritage Auctions page for the letters:
http://historical.ha.com/itm/militaria/union-soldiers-archive-of-letters-by-brothers-alonzo-and-oliver-case/a/6154-49052.s?icsold at Action4=GalleryView-ShortDescription-071515

16
CONN.
VOLS.



WWW. fn. Com/6154
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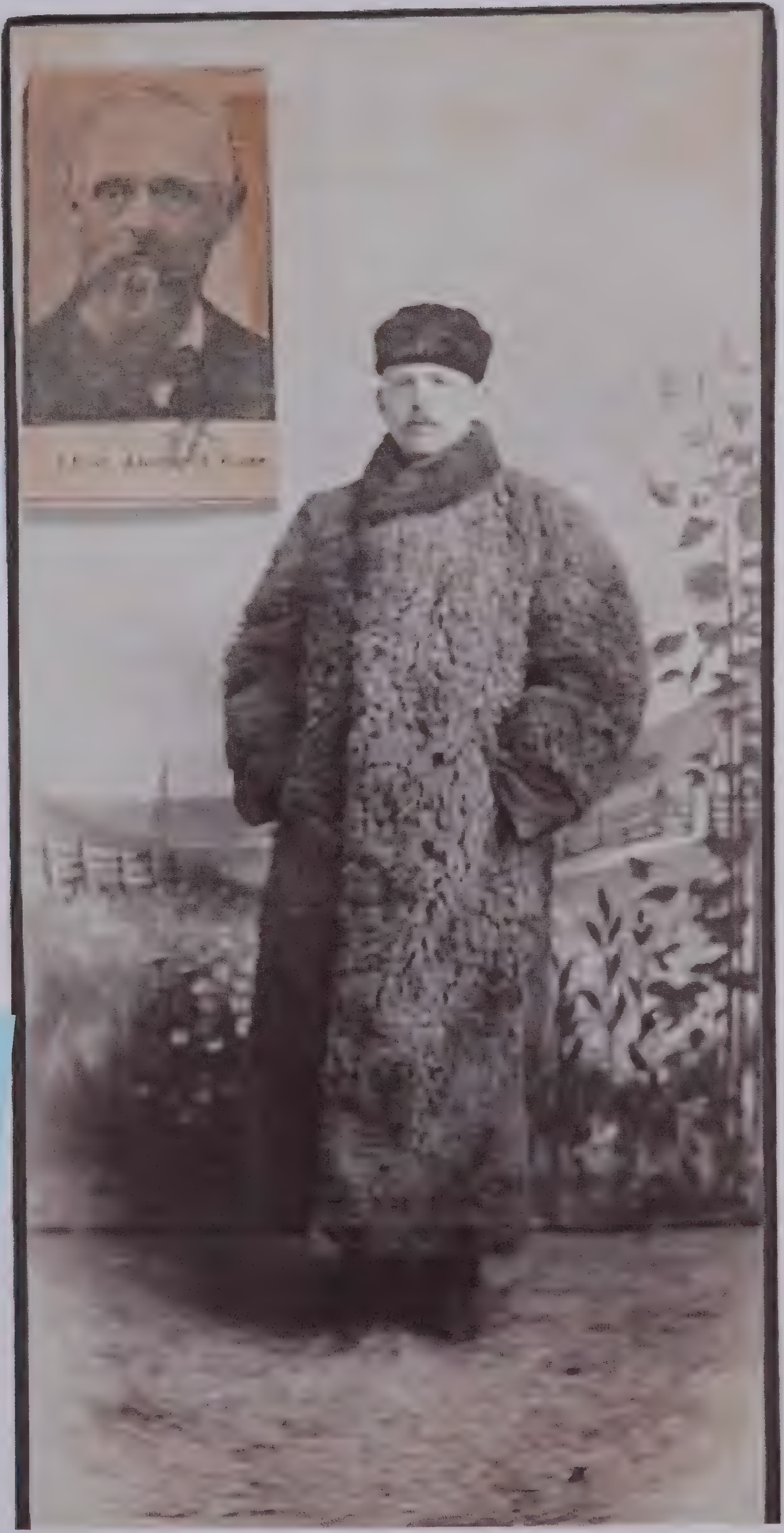
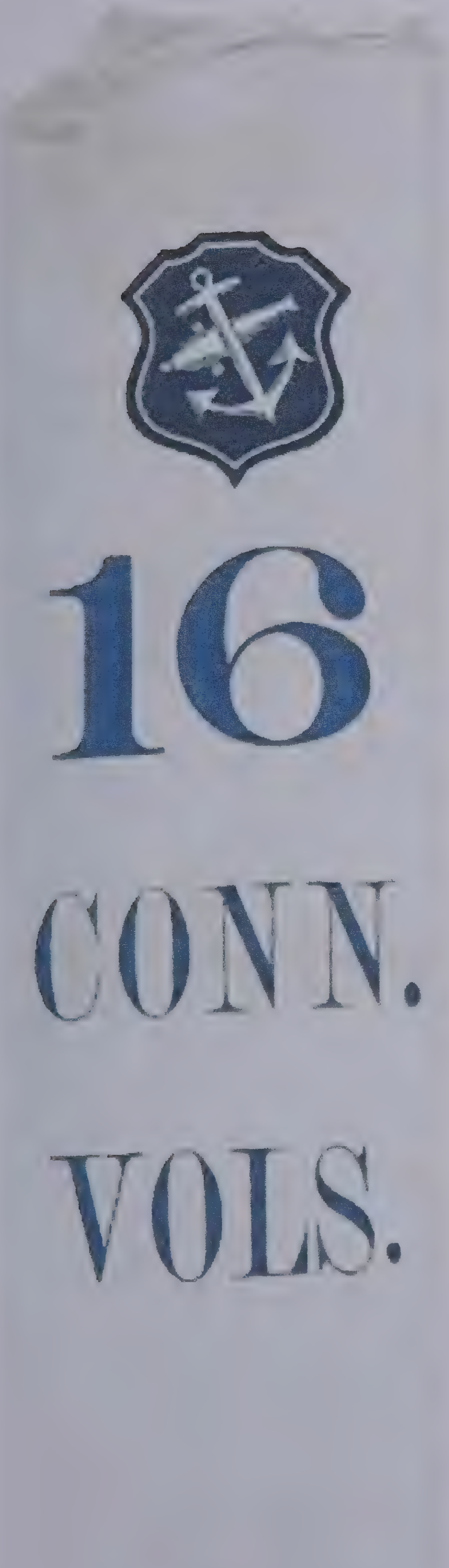
49052

Word doc

A G Case Photo, letter
AGC and OCC




16
CONN.
VOLS.

Union Soldiers' Archive of Letters by Brothers Alonzo and Oliver Case with related papers. An archive that includes more than forty letters from Alonzo Case to his wife spanning from September 1862 to May 1865, including letters during Case's internment as a P.O.W. Together with ten letters from Oliver Case to his brother Alonso, dated from November 1861 to July 1862.

Oliver Case mustered into Company B, 8th Connecticut Infantry as a private, and was killed in action at Antietam on September 17, 1862. Alonzo was mustered into Company E, 16th Connecticut Infantry and also fought Antietam, where he was wounded. He recovered, and continued to serve until his capture at Plymouth (N.C.) on April 20, 1864. He was first confined at Andersonville and later transferred to prisons in Savannah and Georgia.

This is an extensive archive, and what follows are partial transcripts of a handful of letters. Additional transcripts and document listings can be found online at: www.ha.com/6154*XXXXX.

All of Oliver's letters are written to his brother, his first nine letters total 38 pages, varying sizes, but mainly 5" x 8". His last letter letter dated July 31, 1862 is little more than a brief enclosing two bounty checks. Oliver was a great storyteller, and his letters include battle content as well observations of life in the camp and interactions with fellow soldiers.

Two letters written after the Battle of Roanoke Island have great content and rich narrative about events leading up to the fight and the subsequent days: "[On Steamer Chassuer off Roanoke Island, N. C., Feb. 11, 1862]... *We left Hatteras Inlet last Wednesday but owing to the unfavorable blessings of the weather and from the very cautious manner in which we proceeded we did not arrive here until Friday morning when a bombardment of the enemy's fort immediately commenced. The day was clear and warm and it was a splendid sight to see one after another hurl their shell into the fort. It reminds me of a thunder storm where the lighting struck within sight every time. As the fire continued the replies from the fort grew less and less frequent as gun after gun were silenced and before night every gun but one was dismounted.*

Our loss during the day was 4 killed & 12 wounded. At midnight our boys were landed and left standing in the mud until morning when the action commenced. The 24 Mass. & 8th Conn. were held as reserve and were not in. The rebels retreated to their fortifications and did good execution. Our boys tried to turn the entrance but were not successful when Hawkins Zouaves took the lead and scaled the fort and drove the rebels out at the point of the bayonet. The action continued until 2 P. M. when the whole Island was unconditionally surrendered. We took 3000 prisoners, 35 pieces of artillery, 5000 stand of arms besides ammunition, baggage etc. The pieces was all but 5 32 pounders, 1 100 pounder, many of them were rifled.

The soldiers are around picking up prisoners all over the island. They bring in a great many each day. There are five forts strongly fortified upon the island which fell into our hands. We think here it is a big thing. I do not know what will be thought of it north. Our loss is about 50 killed and about 75 wounded, principally from the 10th [Conn.] *& 25th Mass. The prisoners are to be sent to N. Y. as soon as possible...*

I have been sick for about 10 days with fever & ague. I am much better now, shall be well enough in 3 or 4 days and have the promise of being taken ashore today...[I] *have been on board over 6 weeks. It is a pretty tough place for a person that is unwell. The 8th & 4th R. I. are to be left here.*

The fleet expects soon to attack Elizabethtown & New Bern. Our gunboats have gone up to Elizabeth now. The rebels have 7 gunboats which have also gone there. They have given orders to burn them rather than have them fall into our hands. We learn this from a deserter. The rebels burnt their fort upon the main land the night after the battle. The reason for so doing we can not conjecture as their is no connection between that and the island...the Col. [Russell] *of the 10th* [Conn.] *is killed & the Lieut. Col. of the Zouaves. O. Jennings Wise son of the ex-governor was killed. His last words, 'Oh that I could only kill another d-d Yankee before I die.'...direct Burnside's Coast Division...O. C. Case."*

"[Roanoke Island, N.C. February 18, 1862]... *The regiment landed...Friday night the 7th about 12 o'clock and waited until morning when the action commenced...the island is covered with woods with the exception of here and there a clearing with a house upon it. The soil is sandy except where it is swampy and is easily cultivated and with proper cultivation and fertilizers*

would produce good crops...the woods are filled with underbrush so thickly that it is almost an impossibility for a person to get through...after the battle the troops licked up about 30 bushels of sweet potatoes, chickens, hogs, calves and everything else that was eatable. The Zouaves stole a man's chickens carried them in and made them cook them for them. Pigs were taken out of the pen killed and skinned in short order... Our encampment is about four miles from the battleground and but a short distance from the fort that was bombarded by our gunboats... The rebel prisoners are still upon the island. What is to be done with them I know not. Those that have seen them describe most of them as a hard looking set but with some fine looking men. The Georgia regiment were tigers to fight, but those from N. C. were not over brave. The Georgia prisoners say they will fight again if they get the chance. They are very insolent calling their guard anything but honest men. A black flag was found and also an agreement signed by the Georgia rebels to give no quarter nor ask any. If the Zouaves had found this before the battle ended it would have gone hard with them.

Our camp is situated near were a secesh camp was. We find envelopes and pieces of paper with many of their names. There is a rumor that the regiment is to leave on the wheelbarrow (a steam wheel steamer) in light marching order with 3 days rations...to attack New Bern which is said to be strongly fortified... we shall have a sharp time of it for a rebels are concentrating there and are going to defend it at all hazards. The reasons we got possession of the island so easily was that the troops landed in a swamp where the rebels thought it was impossible for us to march through. Wise was upon the island 3 or four days before and said that there was one fault with the batteries. They did not command the swamp. They said that was impossible. Wise said that those d-d Yankees would wade through water to their necks if they could get at them no other way... There was some flags of distress flying but I heard of no suffering..."

All of Alonzo's letters are written to his, and the majority are four or more pages in length. One of his earliest letters describes the fighting at Antietam, and death of his brother Oliver: "*Camp about 3 miles west of Sharpsburg about 9 miles north of Harpers Ferry*, [n. d., but Sept. 20, 1862]... *It is now just 3 weeks yesterday since we left Hartford and Wednesday we passed through the hottest fight that has been in this war. The artillery commenced about 5 o'clock A. M. and our guns being heavier than the enemy they were compelled to move their positions every little while. We were under cover of woods and hills where we could see the*

whole on both sides. Soon after noon we were moved over hills & wales until in the afternoon when we were ordered under cover of the hill and round shot and shell flew around us too thick for pleasure. Two captains [Newton Manross & Samuel Brown] *and several privates were killed when we were ordered into a cornfield with the 4th Rhode Island, we being on the left. The 8th & 11th Conn. were on our right...farther to the right were Ohio troops and still farther some miles distant was McClellan with the right wing. We had driven the rebels all day. We had gained about 2 miles of ground up to the time that we were ordered into the cornfield and then the bullets flew thicker than ever you saw hail in a hail storm. We were in the field about two hours when the Rhode Island reg. broke and ran in front of us and told us that the rebels were driving us. At this many of our men fell back and run and so you see the rebels were trying to flank us and as soon as our regiment broke what men [that] did stand stood no chance of escaping. The captain* [Charles Babcock] *lay by my side and said men stand fast remember country. I lay by a corn hill sentil* [?]*... there was a dozen bullets cut the tops of the hill...not over two feet from my head. I looked around and saw two rebel flags flying not twenty rods from me and at the same time could not see a man from Co. E. I thought that it would not do for men to lie there much longer and I made the best of my way out of that corn patch but there was a hotter place when we got out than when we were in the corn. Here was where the regiment got cut up. I had not got far when I saw captain lying on his face and supposed he was dead but I found he was badly wounded. A ball passed through his shoulder on the right side and come out on the left side of his neck...three of our boys come up and helped him off, he telling me to call the company when I could find them, but I could not find over 15 or 20 of our men. We were soon marched off and so you see that by our falling back we left the 8th & 11th under a cross fire besides a fire in front. This was the fatal time that Oliver my youngest brother was killed. We supposed he was killed him that moment, but did not go on the field until Friday when we found his body. The ball passed through his head killing him instantly. We had him burried near the dead of the 16th so that we can go to his grave any time. We buried 36 of the 16th besides 42 Johnnies that were killed. We do not know of only two that were killed in Co. E. One was Corp. Jesse O. Barnes. The other man was James McGrath of Collinsville. Michael Holland & Joseph Dusham were made prisoners. We have about 10 wounded in our company besides a few missing. All the rest from Simsbury are well except John E. Case who is mortally wounded, he being hit 3 times, but I believe all of the wound are*

in his legs. I wish you would tell his parents. I would write to them but have no paper and cannot write to you all...A. G. Case."

In a letter dated October 1, 1862, he continues reflect on Antietam: "*in camp near Antietam Iron Works... I think that my sword belt saved me from being wounded if nothing more. It struck me on my side, passed clear through my haversack, but when it struck my belt it stopped leaving black & blue spot on my hip. It smarted a few minutes, but was all over then. I do not know as there is anything new in regard to that old battlefield for we begin to look at that as a thing of the past...I have no doubt but the recollection of that 17th day of September will be in my mind for a long time. It being my first experiment on a battlefield... It is now the 3rd day of Oct. and we have just been out to a grand division review of troops and we have seen Abe Lincoln for the first time. He looks full as well as his pictures do. You wrote to me in regard to the proclamation, but I cannot give any very decided opinion... but at the same time I have changed my opinion in some respects since I came into the army. I think this affair will be closed between now... & spring. In this I have not changed but I now think there will be some compromise...this war will do a great deal of good for if it had been settled in the first place by compromise it would have been one of temporary duration, but now if it is settled it will be permanent...both parties have had war enough and they will let all things remain* [?] *that they cannot settle with ballots...they are coming together a strong nation again and then woe to any nation that should attempt to conquer us.*"

About Fredericksburg, he writes: "*In camp overlooking the City of Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 20, 1862... We are here near this city, the pride of Va., and the rebels are in the city in some force. They have been running cars out and into the city all yesterday afternoon and last night but whether it is running troops into or out of the city we know not. We have just been told that we can send a mail very soon... Capt. Babcock arrived with... a week ago Tuesday being 8 days on the road. Capt. Marsh arrived night before last is very well. While I am writing our artillery is practicing on the Rebel trains of cars that are running in and out of the city. I expect they will soon have possession of the city as the boys have just been up looking...and they say our shells are dropping amongst them every time and those things are what no one can stand. We have an awful sight of troops within a mile probably 50,000. Burnside is here with us. Gen. Sumner now commands our division. Harland our brigade & Capt.* [Edward] *Mix* [drowned Albemarle Sound, N. C., March 8, 1864] *our*

regiment as Col. Beach has not commanded since the battle of Antietam. He is home on a furlough and many think it will be a long one. This city is the one that Burnside evacuated in August on account of the non-importance of it at that time [for] *the want of troops but now it opens direct communication with the world. There is some chance of this brigade staying here some time* [in order to] *hold the place but of course we can not tell...Wm. Johnson has just come in and says that we have stopt the cars and the Rebels are leaving the city double quick...we are out of a thing to eat but the teams are on the road from Aquia Creek and will soon be here..."*

There are a total of four letters from Fredericksburg; the most compelling is eight pages long and is dated December 20, 1862:

"*When I last wrote you it was previous to our occupation of the city of Fredericksburg. Thursday the 10th we were ordered to march at 5 o'clock A. M. with blankets rolled without tents... about that time we were started from our tents by the most terrific cannonading ever heard but all we did that day was to lie in camp & hear it until about sundown when we were ordered to fall in supposing we were to go to the city...we only marched about 1 mile when we were ordered back...remained until Friday morning when we started and marched down under our batteries and lay until about 4 p. m. when the enemy commenced dropping shells into our ranks killing 1 man* [Pvt. Isaac B. Thompson, Co. B]*in the 15th Conn. and wounding* 2 [Pvts. James Breen and Willard F. Pardee, Co. B] *making the commanders think it best to move their men. We were accordingly moved back indoor a hill out of range and lay there until dark when we were marched across the river and stacked arms in the main street...there was three lines of battle formed in the same street. The men were ordered to lie down in the street with traps...on ready to march any moment...we officers occupied houses...I was acting as Lieutenant...we passed that night all quiet as far as fighting was concerned...the room we occupied was in the second story and we had a gay time. There was in the room a nice mahogany bureau but there had been a shell right through it...there had [been] about 20 passed through the house as is the case all through the city...there never was a city so completely ruined since the days of Sodom...Saturday morning we were marched under the hill right back of the city, on the bank of the river and such a battle...that day of cannon & musketry never can be...imagined expect by those that are permitted to see & hear. We lay quiet until about sundown when we were ordered into a line*

and marched throughout the city in line of battle, passing under a raking fire of shot & shell for about a 1/2 mile when we came to a meadow within about 20 rods of the enemy's lines. Our boys behaved finely...we lay flat down and the bullets passed about...2 to 4 feet over us and it was here the [Lieut.]*Colonel* [Joseph B. Curtis] *of the 4th R. I. was killed. There we lay until morning expecting...to be ordered up to the enemy's batteries...the men were prepared for it but instead of that we were ordered back to the city and cooked our breakfast...soon after the order came from generals and colonels* [and] *from Col. to captains...through the line that the ninth army corps was to storm those batteries at 10 o'clock A. M. at the point of the bayonet without cap on the pieces so you can imagine the feelings of the men somewhat knowing that we should take their works but should be likely to lose half of our men but 10 o'clock came and night finally came and still no more...after dark our regiment was brought into line and marched to the front, ordered to lie down and then two companies were sent on picket...the rest were left as a reserve...here we lay quite comfortably until morning with the exception of a few pickets firing through the night. Here we staid until Monday night after dark when we were relieved by the 13th New Hampshire, 89th N. Y. feeling that some new move was going on, but could not tell what...we were ordered into the city and every man that had a tin or anything on their haversacks that would rattle or make a noise was made to keep quiet. We formed in line of battle in the town...were soon on the move very quietly and soon were crossing the pontoon bridge then the idea of evacuation first entered our mind...we marched quick time back to our old camps reached it about 11 o'clock p. m...until that time I did not know that I was tired but when I came to my old tent I lay down and felt for the first time (Marsh bawls so I am disturbed he told me to write this) that I was somewhat dragged out.*

Ariel was not over the river until Sunday morn when he came over and helped the surgeon until our retreat. He was not very well...we have slept almost ever since...any will not be able to see how that a move like this will not wear men but although we were not brought directly in the fight but...we were in suspense for 5 days.

I have received a letter from father telling about his trip after Oliver's body. Was very glad to know that he succeeded so well. Was sorry that he could not come to us but if he had he would have had to stay until the fight was over...you can send me a box...direct 16th Reg. Conn. Vols., Co. E, 2nd brigade, 3rd division, 9th Army Corps, Falmouth, Va.

Capt. Babcock left for home this morning. Emmons has not yet got his papers but he will in a few days. I have acted as Lieut. since the battle but my not get a commission. Time will determine.
Capt. Marsh & Ariel are here with me. We are in a sibly tent [the] *one that Capt. Marsh is occupying. His health is poor. He sent in his resignation yesterday. I think he will go home in a few days. Ask father if there was a board at the head of Oliver's grave with his name on it...your husband, A. G. Case.*" With the original transmittal cover stamped "Due 3".

Also included are various documents such as Alonzo's military commission appointing him 1st Sergeant in the 16th Connecticut Volunteers, letters from his wife to Alonzo, letters to Alonzo's wife with news of Alonzo, a post-war photograph of Alonzo, and a GAR ribbon with 9 corps insignia at the top.

Condition: Condition varies, with general toning and a few stray stains. Most letters include their original transmittal cover. Usual mail folds, but no evidence of separations or tears in most instances. Excellent condition.

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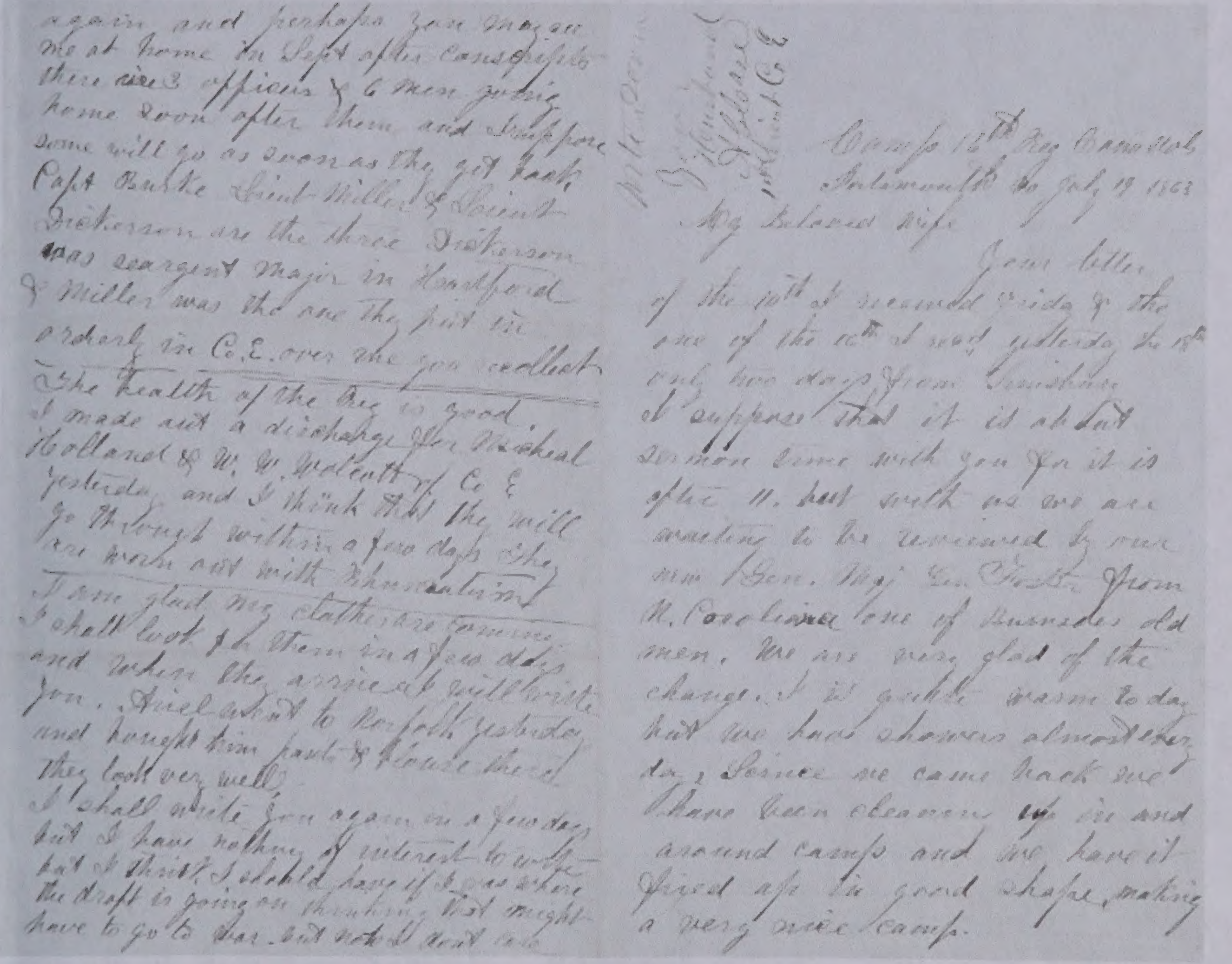

Camp 16th Reg Conn Vols
Portsmouth Va July 19 1863
My Beloved Wife

Your letter of the 10th I received Friday & the one of the 12th I read yesterday the 18th only two days from Windham I suppose that it is about sermon time with you for it is after 11. but with us we are waiting to be reviewed by our new Gen. Maj Gen Foster from N. Carolina one of Burnsides old men. We are very glad of the change. It is quite warm today but we have showers almost every day. Since we came back we have been cleaning up in and around camp and we have it fixed up in good shape making a very nice camp.

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Co E

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again and perhaps you may see me at home in Sept after conscripts there are 3 officers & 6 men going home soon after them and I suppose some will go as soon as they get back. Capt Burke Lieut Miller & Lieut Dickerson are the three Dickerson was sergeant major in Hartford & Miller was the one they put in orderly in Co. E. over the you recollect

The health of the Reg is good. I made out a discharge for Michael Holland & W. W. Wolcott of Co E yesterday and I think that they will go through within a few days they are worn out with Rheumatism

I am glad my clothes are coming I shall look for them in a few days and when they arrive I will write you. Ariel went to Norfolk yesterday and bought him pants & blouse there they look very well

I shall write you again in a few days but I have nothing of interest to write but I think I should have if I was where the draft is going on thinking that might have to go to war but not I dont care